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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 228 | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you ever reported any pricing discrepancies to the Attorney General's consumer counsel?

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Hyatt Promotion

Hyatt Regency Saipan promotes chef de partie Zenn Tomakane to chef de cuisine.

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Hostage Report

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim should take the fall for the hostage blunder on Aug. 23, says report.

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No Entry

Paris Hilton is denied entry at Tokyo's airport following a drug violation in the U.S.

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Rota Customs officer, 2 others indicted for hunting fruit bats. PAGE 5

To shut down or not: Fate of NMI govt known today

» Senate, House still deadlocked on work hour cuts
» Speaker says House will pass revenue bills on Monday; Senate on standby

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In what could be a last-ditch effort to save the ongoing budget talks from collapsing and prevent a government shutdown on Oct. 1, the six-member conference committee will meet again today—twice.

Despite these two scheduled meetings, however, key senators and House members interviewed yesterday were

7 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

See SHUT DOWN on Page 4

FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

CNMI to lose more air seats from Japan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth expects to lose a significant number of passengers from key markets in Japan in the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

The Marianas Visitors Authority confirmed yesterday that direct flights from both Osaka and Nagoya will be suspended from October to mid-December.

» New China airline seeks certification to fly to Saipan

See CNMI on Page 4

Senate passes bill listing 'essential services'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday afternoon a bill listing the essential services that will be exempted from a government shutdown in the event that a budget is not passed before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-26, Senate Draft 1 passed on a 9-0 vote.

"I offered this bill as a backup [plan] should there be no budget passed," she said.

See SENATE on Page 4

Taimanao

CLASS PROJECT NMC

Northern Marianas College students display posters and pamphlets of the three legislative initiatives that CNMI residents will vote on during Election Day in November. The students in Sam McPhetres' Current Issues in the CNMI course recently met with CNMI Election Commission executive director Joseph Guerrero, fifth from right, board chair Frances Sablan, tenth from right, and other staff members to learn about the three legislative initiatives, 16-13, 16-18, and 17-1. The NMC students in the course will assist the commission with educating the public on these initiatives as part of a class project.

Local

Family blocks As Mahetog highway

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estate administrator and family members blocked a highway near Saipan Ice and Water Co. in As Mahetog for over an hour yesterday morning to press their demand for the CNMI government to pay them the $2.1 million it owes for taking their property for public use.

"I'm willing to be arrested! We're just frustrated!" Enrique Seman, administrator for the estate of Rita Rogolofoi, told *Saipan Tribune* a few minutes before he instructed family members to remove the blockage.

The incident caused minor traffic in the area.

Seman and over 15 family members began blocking the Chalan Pale Arnold Road at 8am with empty oil barrels, vehicles, and lumbers. They also posted a note that said, "Private Property."

Seman and his group only allowed the northbound motorists to pass the area, using the narrow entrance and exit way of the water company near the intersection.

Southbound motorists were rerouted to Lower Base Drive. Buses and big trucks, however, were allowed to pass.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham were seen talking to Seman at the scene. Several uniformed police officers were also in the area.

At 9:15am, Seman instructed his family members to remove the blockage.

Seman told *Saipan Tribune* that he ordered the removal after his brother Sid of the Office of Personnel Management talked to him and stated that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is willing to hold a meeting with him.

"We decided to stop for now. I want some development today. I want to resolve the issue today, not tomorrow," Seman said.

If nothing happen with his talk with Fitial, he said he would block the highway again today, Friday.

Seman said that Tudela and Buckingham told him he would be arrested if he continues blocking the highway.

"My land is my land! That's the law!" he stressed.

Seman first threatened to block the highway in March 2006, when he questioned why the Superior Court had not ruled on his motion for summary judgment to resolve a "simple issue." At the time, Seman did not block the road.

When asked for comment, Buckingham said blocking a major highway is impermissible and may constitute a violation

See FAMILY on Page 4

Cruz seeks fund status from Scholarship Office

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) wants a fund status report from the CNMI Scholarship Office, saying some students have yet to receive their scholarship checks even as the fall semester has already started.

Cruz wrote a letter to CNMI Scholarship Office administrator Marissa Rasa on Wednesday. As of late yesterday afternoon, he has yet to receive a response, he said.

During the Sept. 10 payroll, non-critical agency employees did not receive their paychecks because the central government prioritized bond and scholarship payments totaling $2.9 million. Payment to the CNMI Scholarship and the SHEFA programs alone was $1.6 million, and the remaining $1.3 million was for bond payments.

Cruz said if payments to scholarships were prioritized, there should be no delay in the release of the scholarship checks.

In his one-page letter, he said his primary concern is to make sure students receive their scholarship funding "on time to defray their educational financial obligation" and for them to focus on their education. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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Crime Stoppers tips lead to the arrests of 2 suspects

On Wednesday morning, Sept. 22, 2010, Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong received a tip on the Crimes Stoppers hotline. The tipster reported a suspect was attempting to sell stolen property at the "One Coin Dive Shop" located across Beach Road from the Department of Public Safety in Susupe. Tarkong immediately sent the tip to patrol officers and the Burglary Task Force.

Muña

Police responded and detained three suspects. It was discovered that one of the male suspects was attempting to sell stolen dive equipment. The equipment belonged to another dive shop in Garapan burglarized the day before, Sept. 21, 2010.

The investigation resulted in the recovery of some of the stolen dive equipment on scene and the arrest of a male suspect, Roland H. Muña, 21. Muña was charged with possession of stolen property. Later, a search warrant was served at another residence in Chalan Piao, which yielded over $3,000 worth of stolen dive equipment.

That same day, Sept. 22, 2010, at about 2:30pm, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force—consisting of DPS and CNMI customs investigators—served a search warrant at the residence of Joseph Aguon Reyes, 51, in Dandan.

The operation was the result of a Crime Stoppers tip reporting that marijuana was being grown on Reyes' property. The search warrant yielded eight marijuana plants about 6 feet tall. The estimated value of the plants recovered is $2,400. The search warrant produced drug paraphernalia and illegal ammunition. Reyes was charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana) and illegal possession of ammunition. ***(PR)***

550 kids benefited from child care funding

A total of 550 children and 294 families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota availed of the government's child care program in fiscal year 2010.

According to Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, this year's number of beneficiaries is a slight increase to the previous year's due to additional funding it got from ARRA monies.

There are 34 licensed child care centers in the Commonwealth. However, only 22 are qualified recipients of the Child Care subsidy program, which receives funding from the Child Care Development Fund and, this year, stimulus grants.

Faisao said the department does not expect additional centers to open in the next fiscal year.

The CNMI Child Care program has received a total of over $11 million funding assistance from the federal government in the past six years. Administered by the DCCA, these grants were awarded through the Child Care and Development Block Grant from fiscal years 2006 through present. The biggest infusion was in fiscal year 2009, with $1.9 million. This was the same amount provided this fiscal year.

The CNMI also got $1.8 million from the American Reinvestment Recovery Act for the child care program. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

'Select DCCA programs should be exempted from shutdown'

Some of the programs of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are considered "priority human services" and must be exempted from government shutdown should the lawmakers fail to pass a balanced budget for the next fiscal year.

In an email response to *Saipan Tribune,* Secretary Melvin Faisao said these services include food stamps under the Nutrition Assistance Program, the Congregate and Homebound Meal Service for the elderly under the Office of Aging, the child welfare programs of the Child Protective Services and Emergency Shelter, and the Child Care Subsidy programs.

"Programs tailored for human services that are federally funded are still currently being negotiated for exemption [in the event of government shutdown]," said Faisao.

A government shutdown is imminent if no balanced budget is passed before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1. The Fitial administration is currently preparing a list of essential agencies and offices that will be exempted from the shutdown.

According to Faisao, the administration already identified Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility workers as among those exempted from the reduction-in-force plan that would cut government employees salaries, based on the proposed fiscal year 2011 budget.

The DCCA is among the largest agencies in the government, with eight divisions under it.

With the current economic crisis, Faisao asserted the need for the federal government to revisit and readjust when necessary the administration of these need-based programs. ***(Clarissa David)***

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CNMI

From Page 1

Both destinations are serviced by Delta Air Lines.

MVA acting managing director Judy Torres said the suspension of direct flights from Osaka, which brings 177 seats daily, will remain through the end of the year.

Regular daily flights from Nagoya will be suspended from October to the third week of December, losing 182 seats for each flight.

"We expect the Nagoya flight to be suspended from October to third week of December 2010. This is the same for the [Osaka] flight as well," said Torres.

Because of the unstable global economic state and other factors, Torres said the MVA cannot make a realistic arrival projection for the next 12 months.

"The industry is very fluid and global economics and related concerns further complicate our ability to make an accurate projection," she said.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio earlier said that, once the flights are suspended, "the drop in airlift would once again devastate Japanese arrivals to the NMI. It's an urgent priority of the MVA to stabilize our airlift from the key market of Japan to prevent see-sawing arrivals as flights are suspended or re-instated depending on seasonality."

With these anticipated reductions in air seats, the CNMI will be left with only a few remaining flights to the islands.

For Japan, the CNMI will still have the three daily flights from Narita. It will also continue to have two daily flights from Seoul and two to four weekly flights from Busan. From China, the Shanghai flight continues to fly twice a week to Saipan.

These do not include charter flights from other cities during high peak periods.

In April 2010 the Northern Marianas lost two daily flights from Nagoya and Osaka. This suspension resulted in a 44-percent decline in air seats per day.

Torres said the MVA will continue its off-island representations to promote the destination to various markets.

"While MVA will continue our representation off-island and continue to organize annual signature events on-island, getting more flights to the islands is the single most effective means to increase tourist arrivals. Our first priority remains to stabilize air service from Osaka and Nagoya in our largest market of Japan and to keep these flights in the air year-round," said Torres.

She said they have already talked with the Fitial administration and the Legislature on offering incentives that will drive the Japan tourism partners to sell the Northern Marianas more and keep those flights full.

Budget, she said, remains a big factor in keeping the CNMI's tourism programs alive.

"The fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Marianas Visitors Authority was $10.5 million. For fiscal year 2010, we are working with $6.1 million under continuing resolution. Of course, we fully realize the financial predicament of the government and will work within our means and our final budget. However, tourism is the sole economic driver of the NMI and the best avenue to increase revenue for all government services. Funding tourism promotions must be a priority if we want to see economic revival," she added.

Potential new airline

The Commonwealth Ports Authority remains optimistic, however, on the positive growth of the tourism industry.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero disclosed yesterday that a new airline from China—Sichuan Airlines—is applying for certification to fly to the Commonwealth.

"We're hoping for this new airline to come in…so we could see an improvement in our tourism industry. It is now applying certification [with the Federal Aviation Administration] so it could fly to the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sichuan Airlines Co. Ltd is an airline headquartered at the Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport in Chengdu, Sichuan, in the People's Republic of China.

SHUT DOWN

From Page 1

still not willing to give in to the opposite chamber's proposals. Without coming to agreements, Senate conferees, including Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he will make a motion to dissolve the conference committee.

Thousands of government employees are now bracing for a government shutdown—at least until a new budget is passed.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the House and the governor are firm that the 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays will balance the $132 million budget.

The $132 million is the amount available for government operations, although identified budgetary resource is $149 million.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said the Senate has already compromised by agreeing to seven unpaid holidays instead of zero, as well as eight-hour work cut per pay period.

Tenorio said he still thinks no budget bill will be passed by Sept. 30.

However, he said the House will pass revenue-generating bills during their session on Monday. This could still include one of his Saipan casino bills; one was already defeated by the Senate during a session on Tinian.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said the Senate will also hold a session on Monday, in consideration of the House speaker's statement that they will pass revenue-generating bills.

He said the Senate stands ready to consider the bills the House will pass on Monday.

Meetings

The conference committee will have a closed-door meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial this morning.

The second one will be at 3:30pm in the House of Representatives chamber. Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the conference committee, announced that this meeting will be open to the public and the media.

This was a day after House conferees told reporters to leave the Senate chamber during a conference meeting.

Tenorio said he asked the governor if he could meet with both the Senate and House conferees to see if something could be worked out, including a compromise on the work hour cuts.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration had anticipated that disagreements will arise since that was what led to the formation of the conference committee to begin with.

"However, we had hoped that the necessary actions would be taken by the conference committee to arrive at a sound and balanced budget. The governor and lieutenant governor worked hard to ensure that a balanced budget proposal was duly submitted on April 1st. It is disappointing to see that five months down the line, the CNMI government is now on the verge of an impending shutdown. …Nonetheless, we remain hopeful that soon enough, the lawmakers will take into consideration the severe impact a shutdown will have on government employees and their families," he said.

'Senate conditions'

During yesterday's session, Manglona expressed his frustration with the House for not negotiating in good faith and for going into the table with a "take it or leave it" attitude.

He said contrary to the speeches made during the inauguration in January, lawmakers are not doing what they had promised and are supposed to do. He said none of the revenue-generating bills, tax rebate cuts and Retirement Fund bills has passed, and that even the House speaker promised to pass a budget 30 days after the inauguration but this did not happen.

"I challenge House members to come and meet with us and make the best decision, not because somebody is pointing a gun to your head but because you think it's the right thing to do," he said.

The Senate president also challenged the business community to make sacrifices, referring to the Senate-amended version of a House revenue-generating bill that added increases in sin taxes.

Manglona asked the Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) to meet with the House conferees before the 3:30pm meeting today to see whether they are really intent on passing a budget; otherwise, it won't make sense to continue having conference committee meetings.

"If they come here with a 'take it or leave it' attitude, we can't go anywhere," he said.

The House speaker said the same could also be said about Senate conferees.

Manglona, during the session, recommended certain conditions if the House still wants to continue meeting with the Senate.

He said Taimanao should report immediately to the Senate leadership whether the House conferres are willing to negotiate, if any further meetings are open to the public and the media, if legislation on casino will be off the table considering that the Senate already rejected that proposal, if revenue-generating bills are passed, if there's restriction on new hires, and that the budgets of the Public School System and Northern Marianas College meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement.

"I ask you [Sen. Taimanao] to meet with the House chair and if you believe they're sincere to meet with us… please report to us as soon as possible," he said.

8 or 16 hours?

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), one of the conferees, said the Senate conferees are asking their House counterparts if they could agree on having an eight-hour cut every pay period at least during the first quarter of fiscal year 2011.

He said after the first quarter and if the administration reports that more cuts are needed, then the Senate will be willing to negotiate.

Torres said 16-hour cut will be too drastic for employees, especially those making the lowest wages.

But the House speaker said the House conferees would also ask their Senate counterparts to agree to a 16-hour cut and if financial conditions improve, they can lower it to an eight-hour cut.

Manglona, Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and other senators said government employees should not suffer from the inability of Legislature and the Executive Branch officials from passing a budget.

So far, the only things agreed on by the conferees are the $86,000 in annual discretionary fund of each lawmaker, increased budget for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, and the restoration of the $110,000 budget for the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

'Partial pay vs no pay'

In related news, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) asked the governor yesterday to make partial payments to all, instead of not paying non-essential employees today.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said only essential or critical service employees will be spared from the delayed payroll today.

But Palacios said employees who are not considered critical or essential and their families feel that all government employees should be treated equally.

"They too have families to feed, bills to pay, families who have caretakers for ill family members, etc. On behalf of the government employees who will not be receiving their salaries on Friday, Sept. 24, I am asking for your consideration that a partial salary be paid to all government employees equally, and the remaining upon availability of funding," he told Fitial.

SENATE

From Page 1

Taimanao, chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, is also a member of the joint conference committee working on the $132 million budget for fiscal year 2011.

A constitutional amendment removed the so-called continuing resolution budget provision and mandated the passage of a balanced budget every year, or the government will shut down except for essential services.

The shutdown will be in effect until a balanced budget is passed.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), when asked for comment, said he has not seen a copy of the Senate bill but said he doesn't mind having the bill passed.

He said he does not like a similar bill introduced by House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), and is not sure whether he would like the Senate bill either, but he said it is important to pass a bill that will define essential services.

"I think a wise thing for the Senate to do is also clear with the governor, to see whether he would approve the list because I believe the governor is also preparing a list," Tenorio said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration's list of exempted services is being finalized and may be ready today.

Some government agencies have already asked employees to prepare for the worst—that there will be a government shutdown absent a balanced budget by Sept. 30.

SB 17-26, SD1 identified 10 Executive Branch departments and/or agencies with personnel that will be exempt from a government shutdown until a new budget is passed.

Included in the exempted services are "all personnel" of the Emergency Management Office; all non-administrative personnel at the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and Division of Roads and Grounds.

Taimanao's floor amendment to include personnel of the Solid Waste Division got the senators' approval.

Also exempted are Department of Public Health's physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians and other health care providers; employees essential to providing mental health services at the Community Guidance Center, to be determined by the director; and employees essential to providing healthcare services, to be determined by the department secretary.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) proposed a floor amendment to include medical records personnel from the exemption. The senators adopted this amendment.

In the Office of the Governor, exempted from the shutdown are the governor, lieutenant governor, the special assistant for management and budget, one legal counsel, and one administrative staff member.

In the Department of Finance, exempted are the secretary of Finance, one fiscal analyst, one administrative staff member, and all non-administrative personnel at the Division of Customs.

In the Office of the Attorney General, exempted are the attorney general, and two assistant attorneys general, and at least one of them shall be assigned to the criminal division.

Only one assistant public defender in the Office of the Public Defender is exempt from a shutdown.

In the Board of Parole, only personnel necessary to administer parolees will be allowed to work.

Taimanao's bill also exempts from the shutdown the Public School System's education commissioner, principals and vice principals, classroom teachers, and support staff at facilities where students are in attendance.

All Northern Marianas College personnel are also exempted.

In the Judicial Branch, the ones exempted are personnel required for constitutional and legally mandatory due process.

In the Legislative Branch, those exempted from a shutdown are personnel required for the enactment of a balanced budget act.

FAMILY

From Page 2

of different statutory provisions.

"However, there was an effort to communicate, to treat the family with respect and to seek an amicable resolution to the matter," Buckingham said.

He said the biggest concern is that individuals who are not trained in traffic control may create a risk of accident or injury.

"Individuals standing in a highway may be struck or injured by passing vehicles," he said.

Rota Customs officer, 2 others indicted for hunting fruit bats

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal grand jury has indicted a Rota Customs officer and two other Rota residents for poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats in 2008.

The indictment filed last week in federal court charged Customs Officer 3 Albert Taitano, Adrian Mendiola, and David Santos.

Taitano and Santos were each charged one count of taking threatened species in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Mendiola was charged with one count of possession of a threatened species and one count of violation of the Lacey Act.

The U.S. government also demanded the forfeiture of evidence seized from the homes of the three suspects. These included Mariana fruit bats, a 20-cubic foot chest freezer, a Mossberg .410 shotgun, and a Remington .410 shotgun.

Taitano, Mendiola, and Santos appeared yesterday for their initial appearance in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Joaquin Torres appeared as counsel for Taitano, only for the initial appearance. Mendiola, who was represented by counsel Ramon Quichocho, pleaded not guilty to the charges. Santos appeared without counsel.

Visiting Judge Philip Pro appointed counsels for Taitano and Santos.

All three were allowed to be released on their personal recognizance, with some conditions.

Taitano and Santos will be arraigned today, Friday, at 11am.

According to the U.S. government, the alleged violations relate to poaching incidents in 2008 when two of the few remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bat were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns.

In a statement yesterday, Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said the Mariana fruit bat or fanihi is an important species not just to the islands' ecology but to the local island culture.

"The species belongs not just to the people of this generation, but to future generations as well, and it is important that we allow them to repopulate and thrive," Limtiaco said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and officers of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Division of Fish and Wildlife are leading the investigation in the case.

Assisting in the investigation are the Department of Public Safety; the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the National Marine Fisheries Service; the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the U.S. Coast Guard; the U.S. Marshals Service; and the National Wildlife Forensic Laboratory, Limtiaco said.

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Cody: Labor now has jurisdiction to hear all types of labor claims

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the new labor law, the Department of Labor's Administrative Hearing Office now has jurisdiction to hear all types of labor claims—not only those filed by alien workers but also by citizens or permanent residents, according to Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody.

He said an examination of Public Law 15-108 and its successor, Public Law 17-1, will show that the Legislature intended to extend jurisdiction of the Administrative Hearing Office over all labor claims arising in the CNMI, whether filed by foreign national workers, U.S. citizens, or permanent residents.

Cody made such a ruling in his order issued Wednesday in connection with a labor complaint filed by Antonio A. Reyes against Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc. over an employment contract dispute.

The hearing officer denied Saipan Triple Star's motion to dismiss Reyes' complaint for lack of jurisdiction. The complainant is a U.S. citizen.

The case was referred to Labor's Enforcement Section for investigation and a hearing will be held on Nov. 9, 2010.

According to Labor records, attorney Joey P. San Nicolas, counsel for Saipan Triple Star, had argued that since Reyes is a U.S. citizen, the Hearing Office lacks jurisdiction to adjudicate the case.

Cody disagreed. He said the legislative intent underlying Public Law 17-1 holds that the Hearing Office has jurisdiction over all labor complaints, even those filed by citizens or residents.

"Moreover, it makes sense to allow local residents or citizens to utilize the services of the Hearing Office. The Hearing Office operates on an expedited, simplified format with relaxed rules of evidence and an absence of legal formalities," he said.

Cody said this is so designed to enable a worker to bring a complaint on wages or working conditions without having to hire a lawyer.

"Given that many local U.S. citizens or residents make the same wages as foreign national workers, they should be allowed as well to utilize the department's administrative system to adjudicate their labor complaints," he said.

Cody said Public Law 17-1 specifically addresses permanent residents and citizens in its "employment preference" section that deals with an employer's obligation to hire local residents or U.S. citizens.

Thus, Cody said, it is clear that the Hearing Office has jurisdiction to adjudicate a U.S. citizen's claim that an employer has violated CNMI "preference" laws.

He said a section of Public Law 17-1 states that "the Administrative Hearing Office shall have original jurisdiction to resolve all actions involving alleged violations of the labor and wages laws of the Commonwealth…"

Cody said this broad jurisdiction language, which first appeared in Public Law 15-108, represents a significant change from the limited jurisdiction of the Nonresident Workers Act that had been in effect for 10 years prior to the enactment of P.L. 15-108.

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CLOSE DATE:	SEPT. 24, 2010	**SALARY:**	Depend on Qualification

Job Qualification: High school graduate, plus 3 years experience in sports, recreation, and hospitality.
Must have a good knowledge of administrative functions and good public relation skills.

OPEN DATE:	SEPT. 16, 2010	**POSITION:**	Russian Guest Relation Officer/Front Office
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For more information you may contact Miriam K. Seman, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

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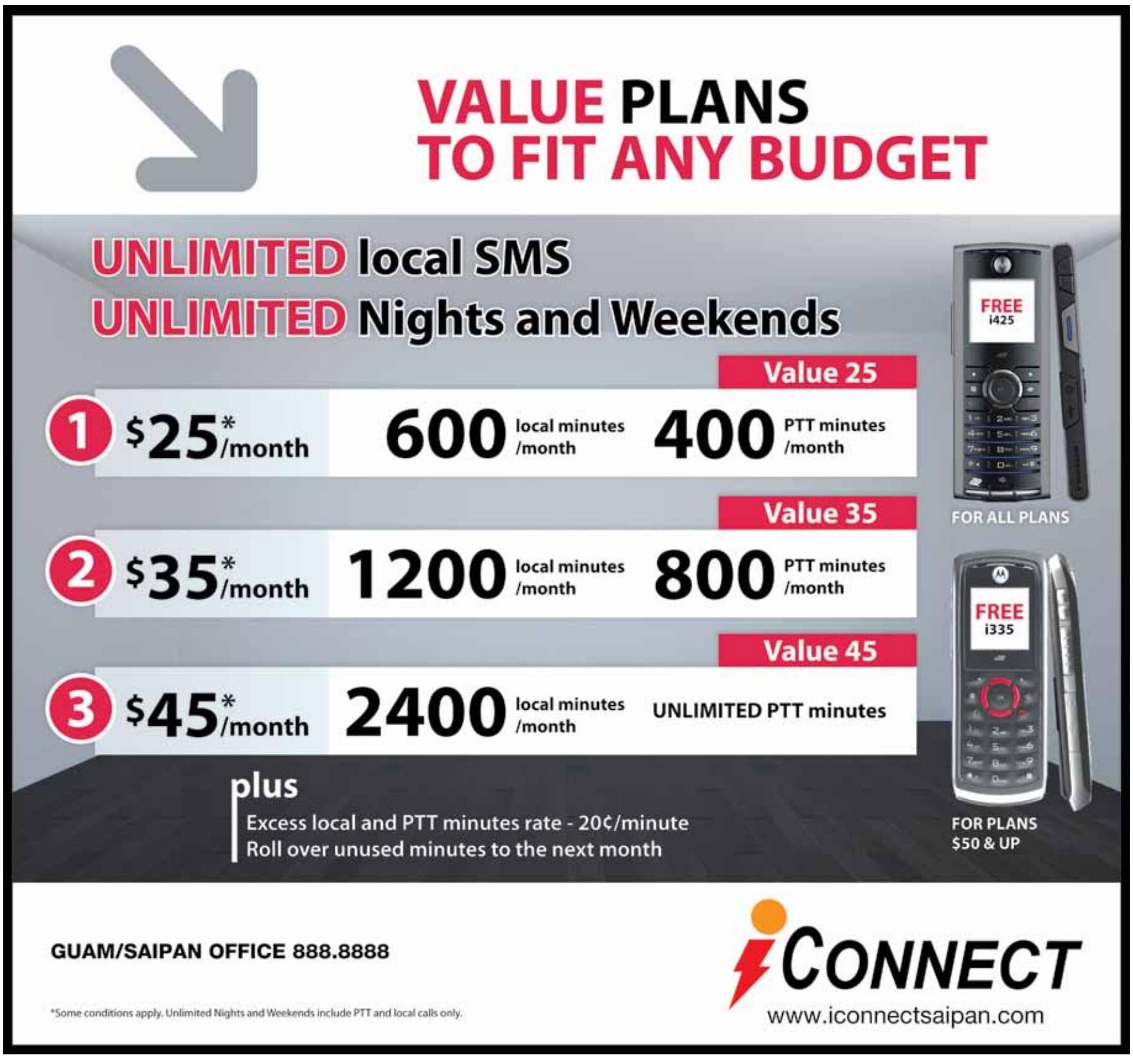

CRA CHAIR RESISTS POWER RATE HIKE

'Utility agency needs to be restructured'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Retirees Association chair Juan Sablan expressed his strong opposition to the power rate hike being proposed next month by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Sablan was among the few attendees in Friday's public hearing for the proposal that was earlier endorsed by Georgetown Consulting and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Georgetown is the commission's consultant.

In a two-page testimony, the retirees' association chief said that success would continue to elude CUC until changes are made to its organization.

"CUC is still a political entity and will continue to be a political entity until we change its organizational structure and run [it] like a private entity. Employees running CUC, especially the higher positions are appointed by politicians… not because they are highly qualified to run the firm [but for other reasons]," Sablan's testimony stated.

He believes that CUC will continue to operate as it is today if people will continue to "authorize" politicians to manage CUC.

"We need CUC to be run as a business with highly qualified employees. It needs to collect the mountain receivables, complete the metering system, downsize unnecessary manpower, and eliminate unnecessary operating costs," he added.

Sablan, who is also the current president of the Public School System's PTSA Council, blamed the high utility rates for people's suffering.

"Residents and business community are dying because of the high rate of utilities here. Some of our residents are leaving the island due to high cost of living in the CNMI. …The cost of our utility is one of the highest in the nation," he said.

Sablan believes that privatization of the CUC, as planned several years ago, should push through. He said millions of dollars were wasted in the past as a result of failed bids and unsuccessful processes.

He also believes it is high time to explore solar energy to address power problems.

Commission member Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune* that they have yet to decide on the proposed power rate hike.

The decision will be made today at the commission's business meeting at 5pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce building.

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CPA not affected by any govt shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Ports Authority will not be affected by any government shutdown because the agency is not included in the government's across-the-board austerity measures, according to executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

He said that, regardless of what happens come Oct. 1, 2010, all CPA employees will continue to work under the board's guidance.

The Legislature continues to be deadlocked on the budget and hopes are dimming that a new financial plan will be enacted before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2010. If that happens, the CNMI government is required to shut down until a new budget is passed.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out, though, that CPA has been enforcing its own internal austerity measures to survive each fiscal year.

Since April this year, CPA work hours have been cut by eight hours pay period as way of reducing personnel expenditures.

"We will still be on eight hours work reduction in the beginning of the new fiscal year… until the board makes new decision," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The ports authority is an autonomous agency with the bulk of its operational budget coming from its own revenue. Most of its projects are funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and other granting agencies.

Deleon Guerrero is optimistic that the agency's revenue will improve in the new fiscal year, so much so that he hopes to bring employees' work hours back to 80 hours per pay period.

He also pointed out that CPA, as a self-sustaining body, is not required to comply with the salary reduction proposal for fiscal year 2011.

This is not the first time the agency has enforced work hour cuts. In 1998, for instance, CPA employees experienced work hour cuts for 10 months. After almost nine years, the agency was again subjected to the same 72-hour work hour reduction for more than a year.

The agency has 180 personnel working on its airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CPA makes money on the fees it collects from signatory airlines, from tenants and concessionaires at its airports, and from the wharfage fees it collect from vessels using its seaports.

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 24, 1999

Manglona's indictment shocks Tinian

TINIAN—Officials here have expressed sympathy for Sen. Herman Manglona who resigned from his post after pleading guilty to charges of bribe-taking, mail fraud and jury tampering. "We are saddened by what has happened to him but every person must be responsible for his action and he has accepted that," said Mayor Francisco Borja. He expressed hope that some leniency would at least be given to Manglona, who pled guilty to bribery charges. Reports of Manglona's admission shocked local residents of this tiny island-municipality, where he served as mayor for four years. He was indicted for soliciting and accepting bribe money from Sablan Construction Ltd., Inc. when he was mayor of Tinian.

EMO to keep local technical service

The Emergency Management Office has to rely on local technical service to ensure that quick response is available when its communications system unexpectedly breaks down, an EMO official said. In response to the Office of the Public Auditor's earlier recommendation that EMO advertise outside Saipan for technical service need, EMO acting Director Gregorio A. Deleon Guerrero maintained that hiring a local technician is more economical and practical. Guerrero said getting a technician from off-island would cost the agency more money as it would be required to shoulder the expenses for plane fare, lodging, meals, and transportation.

Sept. 24, 2001

CUC: No money to pay CDA

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation admitted that it does not have the capability cough up $102 million it owes the Commonwealth Development Authority under a loan agreement which the court ruled as legal and binding. The admission was made by CUC Board Chair Edward C. Sablan. "The CUC cannot afford to pay the CDA hundreds of thousands of dollars every month, when the CUC never receives that kind of money each month from its operations." "The money you hear about—even if bond funds—ultimately came from the people of the United States who helped our local people, and local people get this economy and our islands started by giving millions of dollars in Covenant Funds or CIP money," he said.

Sugar Dock dredging urged

Sand dunes building up around the Sugar Dock has stirred Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan to ask-for the third time since November last year-for the immediate dredging of the dock and the installation of buoy lights in the Sugar Dock channel. Saying that several fishermen and marine tour operators have complained to him about it, Pangelinan urged Director Richard Seman of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Jack Salas of the Coastal Resources Management to begin the dredging of the dock and rid it of the sands that are posing a safety concern to fishermen and boat operators. "The recent storms have shifted tons of sands and piled them around Sugar Dock, including on the boat launching ramp, creating tremendous inconvenience to our fishermen, tour boat operators and boat owners from Tinian," he said.

Sept. 24, 2002

Saipan mayor wants more independence

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela wants more independence in decision-making, which he said is needed to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services to the public. In a proposal, Tudela said the Mayor's Office "cannot execute fully its responsibilities in providing adequate, efficient, and effective public services due to the humongous bureaucracies to go through." In an interview, Tudela said he would want to see greater independence in the areas of procurement and personnel. He said that as an elected office, the Mayor's office should be granted "more independence from regulations that affect its personnel and its procurement of goods and services."

Saipan's own convention center eyed

In line with efforts to increase visitor arrivals in the CNMI, Rep. Andrew S. Salas has floated the idea of establishing Saipan's own convention center modeled after Hawaii's-known to be a premier venue of year-round local and international events. The Chair of the House's Commerce Committee coined the concept after a recent visit to Hawaii, where he met with the state's legislators and picked up several helpful pointers on how to improve the Northern Marianas' business and tourism sectors. The lawmaker, during his trip, had the chance to consult with Reps. Jerry L. Chang, Kenneth Hiraki as well as congresswoman and senatoriable Lei Ahu Isa.

SDA school lauds clinic's $28K scholarship donation

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Students and staff of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School pose with the Seventh-day Adventist Clinic personnel during the appreciation ceremony yesterday morning. The SDA School presented a plaque of appreciation to the SDA Clinic for donating $28,000 worth of scholarships.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School presented a plaque of appreciation to the SDA Clinic in a brief ceremony yesterday morning in recognition of the $28,000 worth of scholarships donated by the dental clinic.

"We're glad that we are able to extend financial help to the school. We try to do our best to serve the community," clinic director Kenneth Pierson said as he accepted the plaque.

Pierson said they believe in the importance of education and this encouraged them to help the school through the scholarship program.

"Wherever you are in this world, being literate and having an education is important to one's success in the future. It helps you learn, grow, and become a productive member of the society," he said.

According to Pierson, the donation is only the beginning as they plan to increase over time the support they give to the scholarship program. "It's completely up to the clinic board," he added.

Pierson said the clinic's board of directors set the criteria for those who can avail of the scholarship.

"Our major consideration is to assess the financial need of the applicant and their desire to receive Christian education," said Pierson, adding that the scholarship is open to all members of the community.

School principal Michael Berglund said the donation sponsored 15 scholars from kindergarten to 10th grade, subsidizing 70 percent of the tuition of each of the scholar.

While the clinic has always supported the school with materials, labor, and infrastructure, Berglund said this is the first time it made a donation "to this degree and scale and we want to make sure that we recognize them appropriately."

Aside from the plaque, appreciation cards made by the scholars were also read out and presented to Pierson and the staff of the clinic.

"Thank you for sponsoring our school. Thank you for the money you gave to our school. We're so happy," said eighth-grader Friendly Joy Pena.

Pena, 14, told *Saipan Tribune* that it was fun to transfer to the SDA school because "all teachers are nice and supportive."

"Thank you for giving me the chance to attend SDA. I will do my best to get good grades," said sixth grader Mariol Joy Lopez.

Berglund said the donation is one way to increase enrollment.

At present, the Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School has about 70 students in their San Antonio location while 32 are with their Child Development Center in San Jose.

The principal said there are other companies that also give them donations and education tax credits.

Berglund thanked Pierson and the clinic staff, urging the clinic to continue their support to the school and hopefully increase the amount of support in the future.

For information or donation, contact Berglund at 234-7326 or 7330.

Aging Office checks up on 120 homebound *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office on Aging is currently doing an outreach program for all *man'amko* that are part of the homebound service program.

Director Rose Mondala said some Aging Office staff are tasked to visit their 120 homebound clients, including those under the National Family Caregivers Support Program, where families are the ones that take care of their *man'amko*.

The islands' elderly can avail of the homebound service upon a doctor's recommendation. Generally, homebound clients are those who have medical conditions like diabetes and related complications or those who have suffered strokes and heart attacks.

According to Mondala, these visits bring up to date the *man'amko*'s records by identifying who among the homebound clients have Medicare or Medicaid or have changes in their coverage, the medications they take, their current physicians, as well as their contact information.

Aging Office staff also determine who among the homebound clients need their assistance in matters such as renewal of Medicare or Medicaid.

About half of homebound clients have already been visited, said Mondala.

She said the visits on Saipan are expected to finish by October, after which they will conduct the visits on Rota and Tinian.

"All the *man'amko* have to be served equally," she added.

Mondala said information that will be obtained from the visits will also be necessary to prepare reports required by the federal government for federally-funded programs like the meal service.

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Opinion

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Volume XX, Issue No. 228

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

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Health care bill of rights begins now

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan writes of the new patient rights and protections going into effect as a result of health care reform legislation. The protections apply in the Northern Mariana Islands because Sablan, together with other insular area representatives in Congress, insisted that the insular areas be included in this aspect of health care reform.

Starting yesterday, Sept. 23, a slate of key patient rights and protections began to take effect for the American people, including people in the Northern Mariana Islands. These protections are designed to put you and your doctor—not health insurance companies—in charge of making the decisions about what care you need and can afford.

Up until now, insurance companies have often left patients without coverage when they needed it most—causing them to delay care, which compromises their health and drives up the cost of care when they finally get it. Too often, insurance companies have put bureaucrats between patients and their doctors, and between patients and the care they need.

These new protections, part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act we passed into law in March, outlaw some of the most egregious practices of the bad actors in the insurance industry, while providing the stability and flexibility that families need to make the choices that work best for them. These reforms will improve the health coverage that you get through your employer or though an individual health insurance policy purchased directly from an insurer.

Here is what these protections will mean for you:

■ **Up Until Now:** Insurance companies were able to retroactively cancel your policy when you because sick or if you or your employer had made an unintentional mistake on your paperwork.

Under Reform: The new law prohibits insurance plans from rescinding your coverage when you get sick, except in cases of fraud or an intentional misrepresentation of facts.

■ **Up Until Now:** Over 100 million Americans have been enrolled in insurance plans that impose lifetime limits on coverage—meaning when a catastrophic illness strikes, they were in danger of bankruptcy when their health costs exceed the limit.

Under Reform: The new law does not allow lifetime limits so families will no longer go broke or lose their home just because a loved one has an accident or becomes ill.

■ **Up Until Now:** Even more aggressive than lifetime limits are annual dollar limits on what an insurance company will pay for health care. The insurance plans of millions of Americans have had such annual limits.

Under Reform: The new law phases out the use of annual limits; ensuring that the coverage of hundreds of thousands of Americans will no longer be cut off right when they need it most. This change applies to all employer-based plans and new individual plans.

■ **Up Until Now:** Most insurance companies did not allow parents to keep their young adult children on their plan while those children worked to finish their education or find jobs.

Under Reform: The new law requires insurance plans that offer family coverage to allow young people to remain on their parents' insurance plan up to their 26th birthday.

■ **Up Until Now:** The NMI's Medicaid funding was limited to about $5 million per year.

Under Reform: The Medicaid funding available will jump to

See HEALTH CARE on Page 16

Bike Trail 10: The NMC dorm

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

"Dorm" should probably come with an "s." When I first came on island in '98, I stayed at a hotel near the college, home to many foreign students from HK/Guangzhou and Korea enrolled at NMC. The apartment complex facing Susupe Lake afforded a fantastic view of Tinian, the channel, and the lagoon. Chinese and Korean students were not unhappy with their living arrangements.

I call my current housing the other unlisted NMC dorm, residence to off-island students who are probably on their first year away from home without parental supervision on the hormonal expressions that comes with the age. I mean, the giggle from the girls comes out shrill and rather piercing, issuing from deep nasal caverns producing eerie sounds reverberating against the canyon-like concrete buildings amplifying their shrieks. At dusk 'til nine, the sounds are lively; at 2am, 911 is a tempting dial away.

The whiff of Mary Jane often assaults the nostrils and this grass is definitely not the mowed lawn variety. One only hopes, against odds, that the experiment will not lead to "ice" and other designer boutique pharmas, or if an experiment is attempted, a conclusion is drawn swiftly and the activity comes to term.

For two years, a teenage daughter in the late '80s in Uptown Chicago took chemically enhanced trips. She decided early on that the induced ecstasy and euphoria are escapist and, at best, momentary, but the addiction can last a lifetime. She had enough fortitude to stop and not look back. The dorm's classy four-wheel drive departing cars burn the pavement but one hopes the screeching journey is not mixed with ingredients that impair judgment. Choice is possible.

In a previous conversation about the closing of garment factories, someone asked when it was time to switch off the lights on the industry, and I replied, "when we stop singing." It was a knee-jerk *non-sequitur* that came out as a reflexive response to ceasing any human activity, but the sentiment sprung from the depth of island orientation. That along with the *wahine's* "when the hula hip quits swaying," or the "wave cease breaking" for the *kane.*

The boys are handy with their guitars. PSS might create more ensembles and organize singing groups to capture what is obviously a gift of these islands - music. There is rhythm in the strut, there's a beat in the heart, and body rocks naturally with the surf.

Anyway, even on weekdays (I assume the NMC faculty checks homework), our students love to strum their cords and belt out their tunes in the hallways overlooking the parking lot, with turned up *karaoke* volume grating against old otic nerves. I miss the days of chants and *a cappella* music, but then, I am a relic of a bygone age.

The rains have curtailed my biking. The steep decline down Msgr. Guerrero Rd. is one big w-h-e-e-e-e-e, but a dangerous one. On a racer, a loose gravel under the tire at a certain angle at high speed spells a spill that can break bones and lacerate muscles, or worst, encounter on-coming traffic at 60-mph any given time, coming and going. That's another speed low in my preference book, one that comes too close too often for bikers on island! Not ready to join the *man'amko* center in the sky, quite yet!

I had a sane dream the other night. Mayor Flores decided to make bike paths out of the inner lanes of Beach Road, posting a slow cruising15-mph speed for 4-wheeler plus vehicles on the outer lanes. Chalan Pale Arnold is the main transport thoroughfare, enhanced to Marpi, branched up Capital Hill and down upgraded Isa Dr. to Msgr. Guerrero branching into fancy Texas Rd., joining the Arnold heading south to As Perdido. Container and service trucks were given preference lanes but barred from plying the lagoon road except on side streets or prescribed delivery times.

The lit lagoon pathway was a hit for nightwalkers. Children rode bikes after school, families rode together on the weekends; properly attired ladies and gentlemen two-wheeled to offices and shops on weekdays. Beach Road establishments provided bike racks, MVA rentals of yellow one-gear bikes for a quarter an hour, or a dollar a 12-hour day, to pedal the length of PIC and the AMP. Like the pathway, the vision for the bike path also extended to the Last Command Post in Marpi. And we lived happily thereafter.

Then I woke up.

Staying awake at the "NMC dorm" takes not much effort; just leave windows open and the students' sounds will keep one up. The air is fresh and cool that air-conditioning is redundant, but alas, the only way to keep the sound out of one's bedroom is to shut the windows and let Freon, or any of the simple fluorinated aliphatic organic compounds, fly!

It's midnight Thursday, and the girls are still squealing. The wailing boom boxes are no help. I trust the neighbors' kids are tucked in bed, otherwise, I pity the teachers who will get them in the morning. Boys and girls, shhhh already!

The bike is wiped and ready to go downhill in the morning on Tun Joaquin Doi Rd. to the post office. The boonie dogs are a nuisance, but there's less road traffic and the way has tolerable grade incline. The return still means *dagan* pain but that's how we gain, neh!?! Or, in our case, lose unsightly love handles around the beltway!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Walking a verb

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

A friend of mine, an English teacher, asked me to suggest some exercises that might inspire students to develop their creativity. Says me: English doesn't have to be dull and pedantic, it can be a lot of fun. That's a blessing to heed in Saipan's multi-lingual environment, where a rule-crazy approach to English will just alienate many students who don't speak English at home.

So I came up with some ideas, one of which was this: Without using any references (dictionary, thesaurus, etc.), make a list of words that could be replaced by the word "walk." Then use each word, or a derivative, in a sentence that takes advantage of its nuance.

You see, I'm a verb guy. Verbs are the engines of language. Everything else is just dead weight that has to be carried along.

You can choose any verb for this drill. "Walk" is just my arbitrary pick. Anyway, here's my list:

1. **Walk**

I'll start with the most obvious word here, which is the term itself. "I walk alone," is my example of usage; no other word on my list would be a satisfactory replacement.

2. **Strut**

"The sergeant strutted across the parade grounds to receive his medal."

3. **Hike**

"My car is broken, so I have to hike to Joeten to get groceries today."

4. **Stomp**

"My friends and I went stomping around in the boonies."

5. **Saunter**

This word has an air of oily, and possibly suspicious, nonchalance about it. "We sauntered into work 20 minutes late like nothing was wrong."

6. **Sashay**

This is a super swishy saunter. "Guess who sashayed up to Alice with a bouquet of roses?"

7. **March**

"Don't just march up and demand a raise; carefully consider your arguments first."

8. **Gallivant**

"After one drink, he'll just gallivant around the room introducing himself."

9. **Shuffle**

"He shuffled up to the table, obviously not happy to be waiting on these customers."

10. **Tiptoe**

"If we read the map wrong we'd have to tiptoe through a mine field."

11. **Lumber**

What a great word, it conveys an air of leaden clumsiness. "The fat guy next door lumbered to the mail box." Hey, it's better than lumbering through the mine field.

12. **Stroll**

"Lovers from Japan strolled along the beach on Saipan."

13. **Ooze**

If "saunter" is oily, "ooze" is positively greasy. "The used car salesman oozed up to the young couple that was looking at the Toyota sedan."

14. **Stumble**

"The sun set fast, too fast, and he stumbled through the dark jungle to get back to camp, hoping he would arrive before Captain Zap found out about the missing gun."

15. **Hoof it**

This is very colloquial American English. "If the taxi doesn't show up, we'll have to hoof it to Chalan Kanoa."

16. **Slog**

"After the typhoon we had to slog through the mud to rescue the cow."

17. **Traipse**

"After the choir starts singing she'll traipse through the congregation and gather donations."

18. **Waddle**

"After delivering a speech on eradicating global hunger, Senator Lard waddled to the dessert cart."

I'll end my list here.

This is a one-way linguistic street. We can use the generic "walk" in place of any of these words, but we can't go the other direction: The sergeant can walk across the parade grounds to receive his medal, but he won't sashay. If your car breaks down, you can walk to Joeten, but you won't ooze there.

I'm not saying that students should be burdened with puffed-up lists of verbs to memorize. The nature of the list is not the length of the list. No, the nature of the exercise is to take the verbs you already know, and then let them carry the sentence. It's amazing how many zany verbs boil to the surface when you start focusing on what is, at first glance, a depressingly boring term. Best of all, it's all fun and it's no work.

All fun? No work? That's for me! And that's why I'm a verb guy.

Letter to the Editor

Throw them out!

In September of 2008, I wrote a letter to the editor titled *Handy-Dandy Pocket Guide to Overthrowing Your Government*. In light of recent events regarding the House/Senate budget negotiations and the utter fiasco therein, I am resubmitting a portion of that *Guide* in the hopes that this ridiculous situation wrought upon the people by the inept, egregious, pompous and greedy may be addressed through actions brought about by those same people who have endured an unending onslaught by self-righteous representatives that deserve nothing less than to *no longer* be our representatives. Portions of the *Guide* appear next:

Thus, the purpose of "rallies," "protests," and other sorts of demonstration of people's growing frustrations with the government. After all, it really is the "right" and, as indicated below, the "duty" of citizens to peacefully show their dissatisfaction. For all who are interested, here is a bit of background taken directly from "Wikipedia" (much of the writing below is credited to Wikipedia and its authors, inclusive):

Some philosophers argue that it is not only the right of a people to overthrow an oppressive government, it is also their *duty* to do so. Howard Evans Kiefer opines, "It seems to me that the *duty* to rebel is much more understandable than that *right* to rebel, because the right to rebellion ruins the order of power, whereas the duty to rebel goes beyond and breaks it."

Morton White writes of the American revolutionaries, "The notion that they had a *duty* to rebel is extremely important to stress, for it shows that they thought they were complying with the *commands* of natural law and of nature's God when they threw off absolute despotism." The United States' Declaration of Independence states that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their *duty*, to throw off such Government" (emphasis added). Martin Luther King likewise held that it is the duty of the people to resist unjust laws.

Later, the concept was also taken up by John Locke in *Two Treatises of Government* as part of his social contract theory. Locke declared that under natural law, all people have the right to life, liberty, and estate; under the social contract, the people could instigate a revolution against the government when it acted against the interests of citizens, to replace the government with one that served the interests of citizens. In some cases, Locke deemed revolution an obligation. The right of revolution thus essentially acted as a safeguard against tyranny.

Now, regarding the "Bill of Rights" referred to by our blogger of yesterday. The Bill of Rights constitutes the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution (there were actually 12, but articles 1 and 2 were not included at the time—article 1 never has been, and article 2 came as amendment 27, but much later). Nowhere in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, or any of its amendments is there any mention or reference to the people's right (or even "duty") to overthrow their government. In fact, such statements were deliberately left out because our founding fathers recognized the widely held tenet that such language would destroy the ability to have an orderly government and serve only as a destabilization tool.

Although many declarations of independence seek legitimacy by appealing to the right of revolution, far fewer constitutions mention this right or guarantee this right to citizens because of the destabilizing effect such a guarantee would likely produce. The NMI constitution is no exception, but there are some that are:

New Hampshire's constitution guarantees its citizens the right to rebellion, in Article 10 of the New Hampshire constitution's Bill of Rights:

"Whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

Kentucky's Constitution also guarantees a right of revolution in Section 1 of its Bill of Rights.

"All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, happiness and the protection of property. For the advancement of these ends, they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may deem proper."

Article I, §2 of the Tennessee constitution states:

"That government being instituted for the common benefit, the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

North Carolina's constitution of Nov. 21, 1789, also contains in its Declaration of Rights:

"3d. That Government ought to be instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people; and that the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive to the good and happiness of mankind."

So much for the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights as well as the NMI Constitution. What we are left with is the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and since the NMI has elected freely to become a part of the United States of America, we must also believe that this document applies equally to the *philosophy* behind the people's belief in good government within the NMI as well. The Preamble to the declaration of independence is as follows:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, ***deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it****, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.* ***But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government****, and to provide new Guards for their future security."* (Emphasis added)

The 13 original oppressed colonies sought to remove their oppressing government (the British crown) through such declaration that might rightly be compared to a sort of "impeachment" in reverse—that is, since the colonies could not remove the British crown itself, they could remove *themselves* from its rule and abolish such rule from the colonies.

What a mess! There is no local "Declaration of Independence" in the NMI and constitutions do not give such rights; however, I believe it is abundantly clear that the *people* have not just a right, but a well held *duty* to "throw off" a government that has demonstrated a "long train of abuses and usurpations" and become "destructive of the ends" to the *right* of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Whether or not the current NMI government fits into these parameters is a matter for the people under its rule to decide—*and indecision means acceptance*. As stated above, "The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive." This whole notion is why we have what are called "elections" and why, now, it is more important than ever to seek redress, force responses from those in power, and then vote—or rebel—accordingly.

I also had previously written another letter to the editor titled *Impeachment vs. Recall* (also Sept. 8) in which the various options for the NMI were explored and explained. As we saw, "recall" in the NMI is an impotent and useless exercise in futility; it does not and will not work. That leaves us with impeachment—but how do you impeach the Legislature? Or even a portion of it? Thus it appears we are left with nothing but peaceful, civil disobedience. I must leave it to the *people* to decide if now is *finally* the right time to rise up, declare the current government null and void and hold a new and righteous election of new and better (hopefully) legislators. Throw out the corrupt and *all* of its appointed delegates; get rid of the criminals that head our departments and services; restore credibility and honest, open government—NOW!

Such an insurrection would undoubtedly result in a federal intervention until such time as the local populace could reorganize and hold a new interim general election under federal supervision, and, *finally*, the will of the people will be realized. The last time this was done was 234 years ago; perhaps it is time once again. Remember: "The only safeguard against tyranny is revolution."

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.,
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. South winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

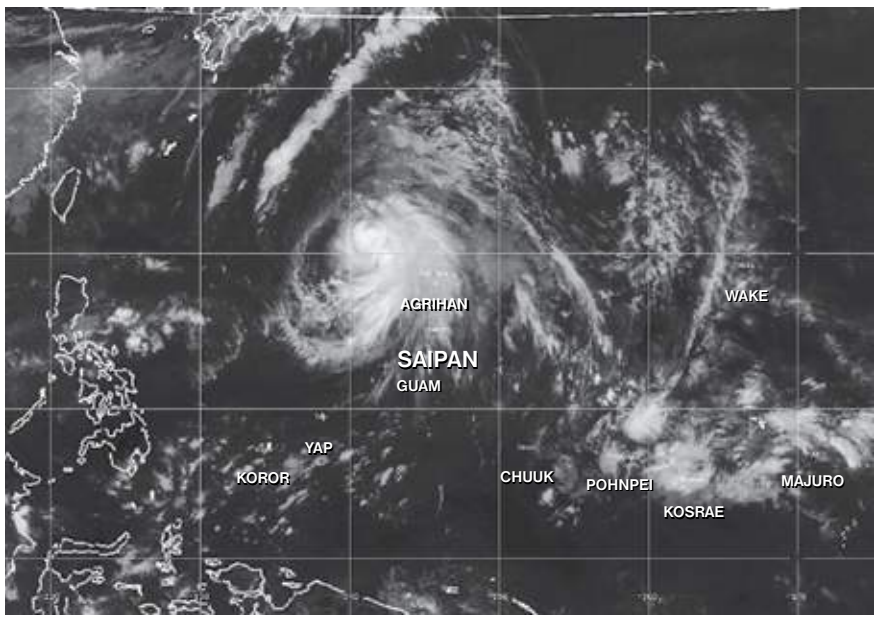
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundertorms	▲86	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲57	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲77	▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Pusan	Windy	▲74	▼65
Rome	Rain	▲80	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲73	▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲70	▼65
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Malakas (13W) is centered west-northwest of Agrihan near 20N141E moving west-northwest at 7mph with maximum sustained winds of 50mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found northwest of the Marianas mainly south of the circulation center between 15N and 22N from 139E to 146E. For further information on Tropical Storm Malakas (13W), refer to JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and National Weather Service public advisories under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Pohnpei and Kosrae between 4N and 11N from 157E to 170E and around Majuro between 7N and 10N from 170E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:31 PM	6:27 AM
Saturday	7:09 PM	7:15 AM
Sunday	7:49 PM	8:05 AM
Monday	8:34 PM	8:56 AM
Tuesday	9:22 PM	9:50 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letter to the Editor

A need for a community ethic

The CNMI is in a deep, deep rut. We are facing payless paydays of government employees and even a government shutdown. The private sector is eating dirt and unable to even get to its knees. And the mood in the communities is bleak.

We have technological problems with water, sewer and utilities. We have a community college on academic probation and facing revocation of its accreditation again. We have a retirement system that has lost millions of dollars and given away perks and double dipping benefits and now can't pay its obligations to its members.

We have increasing crime but a criminal justice system that is riddled with flaws—police who forget about the use of warrants, prosecutors who fail to work with the police to get the evidence and then lose cases. Worse yet, settle for puny crimes and miniscule sentences unrelated to the real crime. And worst, dismiss cases or face the court's dismissals instead of prosecuting them.

We have extreme and serious problems and no workable solutions on the table.

Our legislators peddle the same tired proposals—1) casinos (which have not brought prosperity to Tinian in a decade of operation; have already cost us money in Rota without profit); 2) hitting businesses for more (taking away qualifying certificates, increasing fees); or 3) begging for help from the federal government, while we continue to strut and profess our indigenous rights and refuse to cooperate with them on immigration and federal enforcement of drug laws.

Most people in the community are impatient and only want money in their pockets.

So if and when elected officials "look" for solutions, they look for short-term, immediate "fixes" which do not address the underlying problems and only tend to delay and worsen the situation. Pension obligation bonds are an example. The idea is that we will borrow to "fix" the debt we owe...

Finding long-term solutions means examining what we've done wrong. Some people in the community view this analysis as "unpatriotic," meaning it's anti-CNMI. Others do not have the patience to sift through the details. Still others want to rewrite the past and insist that known facts are actually something else. (For example denying the truth that the Department of Interior did consult with the governor before issuing its report on alien labor.)

And unfortunately, long-term solutions provide no immediate remedy. The people vote out politicians (like Tina Sablan) looking out for them, before such proposals can be put into effect or before their effect can be felt. And so we change course, losing ground in the process.

There is a solution. That solution: we need *a shared vision* of how to approach the problems. We need values to anchor us in a sea of change.

We have spent so much time on thinking of where we want to go, and then we end up arguing about how to get there.

It's time to try a different approach. We need to focus on how we want to act; how we want to build our community; how we think we should engage with one another. *We need an ETHIC, a shared ethic.*

And that ethic must be based on moral values that support our cultures, all of them in their varied beauty.

We must find the Community Ethic that can nourish all of us, without placing any of us at the expense of others. We are in the same boat, and we will sink together unless we work together to save ourselves. Throwing some off the boat is not going to keep the boat from sinking. Obeying a captain who will share what little wealth is left with only his loyal followers is not going to keep the boat from sinking. Hoping for a miracle is not going to keep the boat from sinking.

God helps those who help themselves. And it is time we help ourselves.

My recommendations for our ethic:

We need an ethic that promotes industry, meaning work. There is value in labor. We need to promote this. We cannot promote the benefits of hard work if we cling to the notion of handouts, the gamble, the luck of the draw. We must allow this ethic to be self-directed—it can't be forced on people, but must be planted and grown so that everyone sees the value of their own work. And their own work must yield value to them.

How this ethic might look applied to some of the issues we have before us: Casinos should be out because they promote the idea of easy winnings. Discretionary funds for politicians should be out because they are unrelated to work. Borrowing money (pension obligation bonds) should be off the table because we haven't yet tried to earn our way out of our problems. Immigration benefits should be handed out to those who worked a long time or are working now, but denied to those who got here, did little, and now are hoping for the lucky ticket. *All* government jobs should be civil service—based on competence and merit as demonstrated by competitive exams—and protected from political hiring and firing.

A work ethic includes getting paid on time. It includes a fair wage for work done, commensurate with the skill and level of the work. It includes reasonable profit for businesses and rational restrictions, taxes, and licensing.

A work ethic could rebalance the CNMI and keep the ship afloat.

Another possible ethic: *Our ethic could be environmental harmony.* We live in a beautiful place. The natural environment is our precious resource. Wasting or harming it is counter-productive to our own physical, psychological and emotional health. *We ourselves must insist that everything we do is good for where we live.*

We can do simple things like keeping our own yards and streets clean. We can learn from Tinian and Rota and look to our elders who were especially neat and clean and handy with a broom. We can be grateful for the end to personal maids because it led us to be lazy about our own efforts at keeping our environment clean. We can return to our roots and make our environment cleaner.

At a local government level, there are many things we can insist on. Kill the rats. Amp up our Zoning Board to focus on environmental concerns and don't license what disturbs the beauty and calm of our islands. Insist that cars and buses have proper mufflers and stop spewing pollution into the air. And thank our current Saipan mayor for properly addressing the dead animal problem we had endured for years.

Our ocean is our legacy. We need to insist that everyone obey the fishing restrictions and respect protected areas. We need to reward the efforts of those in the community who are cleaning up our litter. We need to stop tour guides from encouraging our visitors to disobey regulations like feeding fish at Managaha.

We also should be promoting conservation and working with those outside the CNMI who do so, including federal agencies. We need to push for more action on the Marine Monument. We need to create a co-managed sanctuary with NOAA to get their education and other benefits here.

With an environmental ethic, we can build on programs in our community like CREES, and encourage our students to study science. We can promote eco-tourism and demote ideas like casinos. We can develop green business ventures. There is potential to save us from shipwreck and live in harmony with the world about us.

See COMMUNITY on Page 14

Kristo Rai Parish
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September 25, 2010
Registration Time: 06:30 a.m.
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For more information, you may call Margaret DelaCruz at 287-4627,
Marcy Cepeda at 483-7221 or
Father Celso at 285-0273.

Explain your action

Dear members of the House of Representatives: Please do not forget who you are representing. There is a saying that if we go down you will most likely go down with us.

I am writing to express my concerns about your behavior that is causing more depression on everyone. Please represent, otherwise we will all face the consequences. I beg all of you to listen and find ways to fix this budget crisis. If cutting hours is not good for everyone, then try lowering the salaries, with options to help those who have financial obligation. But do not do something that affects everyone's living, especially the poor.

Explain to us or show us why the Senate should approve the 16 hours cut and how is this going to help all of us and not just you and the essential departments. Explain or show us proof of all CUC expenses and collections to show us why we should continue to pay fuel charges. Publish these expense and collections, including government tax collections and expenses, to show the people of the CNMI why our hours should be cut so that we can believe and have faith in your performance. Unless you have something to hide, then these might not be possible.

I for one will support you all if you publish these request, rather than exploiting those who are doing their jobs and those who are not. Because I believe that everyone is doing something, only that not everyone is doing what they are supposed to do. That is why we are crashing.

Remember I am watching you.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Tinian

COMMUNITY

From Page 13

There are other worthy ethics we could embrace. Kilili has been touting the value of education and critical thinking—critical meaning careful evaluation and judgment, not carping and negativism. (To my knowledge, he's the only political leader in generations who has approached our problems with a stated goal for a community ethic.)

This is a good value and one that could be a worthy Community Ethic. A commitment to education as an ethic can include promoting vocational education (and work); it can strengthen our basic institutions with reliance on facts and information; it can replace politics with reason. There is a chance to repair our ship with learning and knowledge.

Whatever ethic we choose, our ethic should direct us, and come before politics and greed and personal agendas.

Family ties

In the past, we have confused politics with our love of our family. Strong family loyalty and the ties of kinship are also an ethic. But we have gotten confused by this ethic. We have embraced teen pregnancies in the name of family, when this is not good for our teen children who are having babies or for the babies born to them. We have allowed our little children to stand on street corners and beg for money in the name of family—for politicians, for school organizations, for personal needs. We have overspent our personal budgets, digging ourselves into debt in the name of family obligations from funerals to birthdays. We have turned a blind eye to nepotism in government jobs because of our acceptance of "family first." We have even called on family to give us jobs, expecting ties of kinship to overbalance other considerations like education, experience, competence. We have voted family members into political office despite their poor past performances and lack of leadership skills. When we have so twisted our value in family that our practice no longer actually serves the benefit of the family, we are doing something wrong.

And our community is now in peril because we have failed to think through our actions and decisions. We have brought ourselves to this mess.

We need to re-think our ethic when it comes to family and how we practice this ethic. Family is an important value in our society and one that underlies all cultures. We should work for our families, but not at the expense of other values. We should ensure our children's safety and education. We should share our religious beliefs with our children and families. We should protect and enjoy our family units. But we should not distort our loyalty to family into a corruption that destroys our other ethics to hard work, the environment, education, and other worthy ethics like honesty and mutual respect.

In this time of strife and difficulty, we need to think harder. We need to decide. We need—not a plan of action, but—a shared value of *how* we want to build our future. And then we need to begin by letting those values and ethics direct our choices.

Jane Mack
San Vicente, Saipan

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The economic predicament of the Commonwealth

As the CNMI economic situation deteriorates further and faster, and as our present leaders continue to "sleep on the wheel," we should know by now that unless somebody competent and capable takes the helm of leadership, the CNMI government will indeed go bankrupt this year. All of the signs of bankruptcy are already here: payless Fridays, a government revenue decline that is only 50 percent of what it was 10 years ago, and so forth. The worst picture that we will soon see is that of a ship sinking, with people jumping overboard. Yet what do our present leaders do? *Nothing*. They cannot even pass a budget, because they don't know what to do or how to do it. We have leaders in government that are lost and have no idea of what to do.

The other day, the administration said that "we have not reached rock bottom yet," as if that is the administration's goal: to try and reach rock bottom. Is that what they have been doing all this time—leading us to "rock bottom?" What a pathetic group of leaders we have: doing nothing while the economic storm buffets the very livelihood of the people. Had they been capable and competent and with some degree of foresight, we would not have been in this huge mess that we are in. Sadly, we keep voting incompetents into office. We the people either have to wake up and change the way we choose our leaders otherwise we have no one to blame but ourselves. *The choice is ours.*

I would strongly suggest that our leaders take the time to read former chief justice Jose Dela Cruz's book *From Colonialism to Self-Government: The Northern Marianas Experience*. It is an excellent book. It discusses many of the very things that we are now facing as a self-governing commonwealth: our failures and shortcomings. He talks about how to try and improve our "experiment" in governing ourselves for the first time, after four centuries of colonialism. As just about all of the readers of his book earlier noted, the book is truly "a must-read" for every person here in the CNMI, if we are going to try and turn things around for the better. Enfin serafin.

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

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Cancer Survivor Support Meeting

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting on

Wednesday, September 29, 2010
at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room
starting at 5:30pm.

This month's survivor support meeting will feature a presentation titled "Nutrition and the Cancer Survivor," by Ms. Hee Jae Lee, a registered dietitian who practices in the CNMI. Ms. Lee will be presenting nutrition guidelines from the American Institute for Cancer Research for cancer prevention and survivorship, and discuss ways to apply those recommendations in the islands using fresh and locally available foods. Her presentation will be followed by a survivors-only discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728, or email cca@ccamarianas.org .

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

DINNER CONCERT

Students of Keynotes School of Music pose with music teacher Dinah Medina after their performance in "A Night in September, Time to Remember" dinner concert last Sept. 19 at Palms Resort's Theater Hall. Their repertoire featured popular compositions by Beethoven, Chopin, G. Lange, C. A. Debussy, Jules Massenet, Bach and others.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 17th birthday to Brooke Leilani Sablan! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 60th birthday greetings go out to Mom, Merced R. Limes, with wishes and prayers for many more joyful days to come! Love, from children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Help Promote WRECK Less Driving
SIDE NO-ZONES
Don't hang out on either side of trucks or buses!
They have big blind spots on both sides. If you can't see the driver's face in his side-view mirror, he can't see you. If that driver needs to change lanes for any reason, you could be in big trouble!
REAR NO-ZONES
Avoid Tailgating!
Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge No-Zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver can't see your car there, and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck or bus driver brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.
FRONT NO-ZONES
Pass Safely!
Don't cut-in front too soon after passing. Truck and bus drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. Look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front, and then don't slow down!
BACKING UP NO-ZONE
Pay Closer Attention!
Never cross behind a truck or bus that is backing up! Hundreds of motorists and pedestrians are killed or injured, each year, by ignoring trucks and buses backing up. Truck and bus drivers do not have a rear-view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.
WIDE RIGHT TURNS
Avoid the 'Squeeze Play!'
Truck and bus drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. They can't see cars squeezing-in between them and the curb. Watch for their blinkers and give them room to turn.
NO-ZONE
Don't hang out in the NO-ZONE™
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HEALTH CARE

From Page 10

nearly $9 million in 2011 and keep increasing to nearly $21 million in 2019—bringing our total to $158 million over the next 10 years.

All of these provisions take effect for the next plan year starting on or after Sept. 23. That means they will be in effect the next time you re-enroll or purchase a policy from an insurer.

And these reforms will be expanded over time. For example, starting in 2014, companies will be prohibited from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions.

The NMI will also be eligible—at the governor's option—for funding to create an insurance exchange with subsidized premiums for families who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford to pay for health insurance.

Opponents of health care reform want to repeal this new law and take away these important consumer protections. But I believe the reforms we enacted in the 111th Congress are going to help people in the Northern Mariana Islands, protecting you from harmful insurance practices and ensuring you don't face bankruptcy when a family member becomes sick. These reforms will help us all stay healthier physically and financially.

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$10,000 cash bail set for Saluta in 2009 assault case

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed yesterday a $10,000 cash bail on a jobless man who surrendered on Wednesday to police after learning that there is an arrest warrant for him over an alleged assault incident that happened more than a year ago.

Govendo granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to increase the bail to $10,000 cash from $5,250 cash that associate judge David Wiseman earlier imposed on Noel Saluta.

The prosecutors asked the court to increase the bail as Saluta is a flight risk. They said penal summons were issued after the government filed charges in December 2009, but that they could not locate the suspect.

Chief prosecutor Mike Ernest said Saluta, a Filipino, has no legal status to remain in the CNMI. Ernest even pointed to a federal immigration officer, who watched the proceeding, in the courtroom.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Saluta, said "it is mind-boggling" to increase the bail when in fact his client voluntarily surrendered after learning that there is an arrest warrant for him.

Hartig also pointed out that Saluta was in the courtroom for the criminal case and not for an immigration matter.

Govendo expressed concern why the OAG initially issued penal summons in a case involving assault with a dangerous weapon.

Ernest was not the chief prosecutor when the summons was issued.

The arrest warrant was only issued on Thursday.

The information charged Saluta with assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

Detective Sean White stated in his affidavit that the incident happened at Fina Sisu Market on April 19, 2009.

White said that Saluta confronted Alejandro Orellano for staring at him and then chased him with a knife.

Saluta denied the charges and stated he would file a counter complaint against Orellano.

The 40-year-old Saluta recently attracted media attention after he and his family were forced to take shelter at the Susupe Regional Beach Park stage after being turned out from their rented house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMHC to participate in homeless prevention conference in Georgia

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will be sending representatives to a conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Planner and grant writer Jeannie Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* that she and corporate director Joshua Sasamoto will be attending the Homeless Management Information System/Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Conference on Sept. 27-30 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mafnas said the conference theme is "Flexible Resources, Data-Driven Solution: Using HMIS and HEARTH to End Homelessness."

The HUD HEARTH/HMIS Conference aims to provide information on HEARTH implementation with respect to program operation, data collection, and increasing community capacity to perform program, and systemwide performance measurement.

The conference is also intended to train participants about HMIS, a software designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless people.

Homeless assistance providers can use this Web-based application to coordinate care, manage operations, and enhance service to clients.

"We are in the process of purchasing the HMIS database to input our statistics data for the Homeless Prevention Program," said Mafnas.

According to Mafnas, the housing corporation is the only agency in the CNMI to implement the HMIS which will be used to gather data that will be used in giving aid to people who are at risk of homelessness.

"HMIS will give us a clearer picture and more accurate data in terms of families at risk of homelessness," she said.

Through the HMIS, Mafnas said NMHC can collect data on families who have received assistance from the Homelessness Prevention Program, the number of household members, whether they have become a success story or not.

The data can also be used when applying for more homeless prevention grants, she said.

Mafnas said the conference can help them focus on homeless prevention concerns on the island.

"With all the economic recession we are experiencing, a lot of families are looking for all kinds of welfare assistance, including housing," she explained.

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
in collaboration with
CNMI Assistive Technology Program Presents:

2010 Assistive Technology Fair

'Funding sources for Assistive Technology and/or Services'

September 29, 2010
Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Aqua Resort Saipan
(Taga Room)

Activities for the day include:
- Registration
- Assistive Technology Overview
- Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
- Exhibitor Display (Vendors)
- Assistive Technology Devices Showcase
- Assistive Technology Demonstration
- Center for Independent Living /Call-A-Ride Demonstration

Seating is limited!

For more Information and Registration inquiries, please contact:
Christie Sablan at 664-7003 or CDD at 664-7000/1/2
Special Accommodation should be arranged with CDD seven (7) days before the event.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MRCDC Saipan committee meeting set

The Saipan Island Committee of the Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council will hold a meeting on Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in Garapan, on Beach Road. The meeting agenda will include discussion on the completion of the Beach Road solar restroom project; a proposal to develop a marine/environmental science center; and brainstorming/ranking of other proposed new RC&D projects for Saipan. The public is invited and encouraged to attend and participate. For more information, contact Carl Castro, Saipan Island Committee chair, at carljcastro@gmail.com or 287-5697. For information on special accommodations for disability, call (671) 472-7447. ***(PR)***

Farmer and Landowner Assistance Forum

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council presents the Farmer and Landowner Assistance Forum. Hear about the many programs for financial and technical assistance available to farmers and landowners.

Speakers include USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service, UOG Cooperative Extension Service, and Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Program.

- Southern Guam: Monday, Sept. 27, 6pm-8pm, Agat Community Center
- Northern Guam: Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6pm-8pm, Yigo Senior Center
- Rota: Thursday, Sept. 30, 11am-1pm, Northern Marianas College

Made possible by a grant from the Farm Services Agency. For more information call (671) 472-7447. ***(PR)***

Attention to absentee voters

The Commonwealth Election Commission is informing all registered voters who will be away from the Northern Mariana Islands on Election Day that they need to apply for absentee voting in order to receive a ballot on which they could cast their vote. The commission will only send ballots to those who apply for absentee voting. All requests to vote by absentee must be completed and submitted to the commission by 4:30pm, Chamorro standard time, Oct. 8, 2010. Applications to vote by absentee voting may be downloaded and printed at http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/downloads/absentee ballot application.pdf and the application may be sent to the commission by mail, facsimile, or be scanned then emailed.

Anyone requiring more information on any election matter may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to executivedirector@pticom.com or info@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(CEC)***

Debra Cabrera sworn in to Obama's advisory commission

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dr. Debra T. Cabrera of Saipan has been sworn in to serve as one of 17 members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Neal Kaytal, acting solicitor general of the United States, administered the oath of office at a formal ceremony in the congressional auditorium at the U.S. Capitol Tuesday.

Dr. Cabrera was nominated to serve on the Commission by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

"It was a very special moment to see a woman from the Northern Mariana Islands sworn in to serve on this distinguished panel that will be advising the President on national policies affecting Asian American and Pacific Islanders," Sablan said. "Dr. Cabrera has worked very hard all of her life to achieve the academic credentials she has. She will certainly be a fine representative for the Northern Marianas, and more broadly for all Pacific Islanders and Asian-Americans."

Present at the ceremony was Dr. Cabrera's brother, Dr. Felix Cabrera, who is currently completing a residency in internal medicine at Yale University.

President Obama created the White House Initiative on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders by executive order in October 2009. The mission is "to improve the quality of life of AAPIs through increased participation in Federal programs in which AAPIs may be underserved," according to the executive order.

Nominees to the Advisory Commission went through a rigorous background check and selection process during the year since the President's order.

Dr. Cabrera is one of two commissioners who come from academia. She was dean of Academic Programs and Services at the Northern Marianas College from 2008 to 2009, and served for many years on the NMC faculty, teaching social sciences. Dr. Cabrera holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Kentucky, an M.A. in Sociology from Ohio University, and a B.A. in Sociology from Washington State University. Currently, she teaches at Guam's St. John's School.

"In addition to her academic prowess Dr. Cabrera has made significant contributions to the Northern Marianas through community work," said Sablan. "That's how we first met: as fellow members of the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

"Dr. Cabrera impressed me then and, when the President announced the formation of the Advisory Commission, she was someone I thought met the necessary qualifications. So I sent her name to the President."

The other commissioner with a university background is Sefa Aina, also a Pacific islander, who is the director of the Asian-American Resource Center at Pomona College in California.

Dr. Cabrera is the only commissioner from a U.S. territory. At the swearing in ceremony U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA), who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, underscored the importance of keeping the territories in mind when shaping national policy. Cabrera's presence on the commission is expected to help keep the concerns of Pacific island territories in front of White House officials.

Cabrera is the second person from the Northern Marianas that Sablan has been able to place on a national board. Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Perry Tenorio was appointed to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke's Travel and Tourism advisory board. The board includes the CEO of Delta Air Lines, one of the NMI's most important travel partners, the COO of the Global Hyatt Corp., and 30 other leading members of the U.S. tourism industry. ***(PR)***

White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
Swearing-In Ceremony
September 21, 2010

Dr. Debra T. Cabrera is presented to the audience in the congressional auditorium at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday night. Dr. Cabrera was one of 17 persons sworn in to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man allegedly beats up wife with a cinder block and chair

A woman landed in the hospital after her common-law husband allegedly hit her with a cinder block and a wooden chair.

Medics brought the victim to the hospital after she complained of severe pain in the back of her head. She sustained contusions in the head, nape, back, and right shoulder.

Terwik A. Ludwik, 36, was arrested Wednesday night in Koblerville for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $7,000 cash.

Detective Sabino P. Cabrera stated in his report that police officers responded to Koblerville Housing on Aug. 20, 2010, at 9:02pm after receiving a report of a disturbance.

Police investigation showed that the victim had just arrived home that evening from visiting a relative at the hospital when she and the suspect began arguing.

Ludwik then allegedly picked up a wooden chair and hit the victim on the back. He also allegedly hit the victim with a cinder block.

The victim's two daughters shouted at Ludwik to stop but he allegedly told his stepdaughters not to interfere or he would also beat them up.

Ludwik then reportedly ran off to avoid the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Newly appointed Hyatt Regency Saipan chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane, middle, poses with executive chef Gabriel Colombo, left, and general manager Nick Nishikawa.

Hyatt has new chef de cuisine

Hyatt Regency Saipan has promoted chef de partie Zenn Tomakane to chef de cuisine of its Teppanyaki and Giovanni's restaurant.

Tomokane's new role will be assisting executive chef Gabriele Colombo in managing the culinary operation of both restaurants and ensuring the overall success of the outlets by providing authentic culinary experience and hospitality to Hyatt customers.

Since he was a young child, Tomokane was passionate with cooking and creating dishes of his own. He wanted to pursue a career in the culinary arts and joined the Hyatt as a commi chef, later moved to front office, and was groomed as a team leader for bell service.

Tomokane left Hyatt to join a local food and beverage establishment but shortly after returned to the Garapan landmark. He rejoined Hyatt and knew that his true passion is in the culinary arts.

"Sometimes, you don't know what you want until you know what you need," he said.

This time, Tomokane went through the Hyattrack program, and under the mentoring of Hyatt human resources director Josephine Mesta and Colombo, Tomokane was sent to Osaka, Japan to be trained in one of the Hyatt property for three months.

With a lot of perseverance, patience, and determination, Tomokane completed his Hyattrack program successfully and was rewarded the position of chef de partie in late 2009 before assuming his current position as chef de cuisine

Aside from his new role, Tomokane will also serve as a culinary instructor at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. On that role, he promotes, encourages, and influences students who would like to pursue their career in the culinary field.

Today, Tomokane envisions himself reaching executive level in the next five to seven years, with the support of his team, executive chef, and management. Tomokane's success is a great example of "when love and skill work together we can expect a masterpiece." ***(PR)***

Obama faults himself for not selling health law

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)— Blaming himself for coolness to his health care overhaul, President Barack Obama is seeking to reintroduce the law to voters who don't much like or understand it six months after he signed it.

The White House gathered patients from around the country who have benefited from the measure, and the president rolled up his sleeves to address them Wednesday in a sunny Virginia backyard, highlighting changes that take effect at the six-month mark on Thursday. These include a ban on lifetime coverage limits, as well as free coverage for preventive care and immunizations. Young adults will be able to stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26, and kids with pre-existing health conditions won't be denied coverage.

"We just got to give people some basic peace of mind," the president said,

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart," Norma Byrne of Vineland, N.J., told the president, explaining she was benefiting from the law's provisions that are closing a Medicare coverage gap for prescription drugs.

MVA to join JATA, Guam travel fairs

The Marianas Visitors Authority makes its annual appearance this week at Japan's largest travel show, the 2010 Japan Association of Travel Agents World Travel Fair.

The event, expected to be attended by over a hundred thousand travel trade reps, media reps, and potential visitors, will be held from Sept. 24 to 26 at the Tokyo Big Sight East Hall. JATA is a national organization of travel agents and suppliers promoting the travel and tourism industry.

"JATA World Travel Fair is the Northern Marianas' biggest and best opportunity in Japan to meet with travel reps who can help sell our destination, media reps who can help publicize our islands, and potential travelers deciding on their next destination," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "If past years are any indication, we expect to reach many thousands of participants directly at our promotional booth."

The MVA will also conduct its Marianas Workshop today, Sept. 24, to update travel agents about the Northern Marianas destination. The Marians Workshop is expected to attract over 110 travel agents and media and will be held at Tokyo Bay Ariake Washington Hotel.

The MVA is also gearing up for two trade shows and a dive show in Guam in October targeting military personnel and their families. The U.S. Navy travel show will be held on Oct. 13, followed by the 7th Annual Anderson Travel Fair on Oct. 14. A special divers show on Oct. 15 will showcase Northern Marianas diving opportunities and is expected to welcome more than 150 divers eager to learn about new dive destinations.

"By participating in these events we are presenting opportunities to improve the 'quality of life' for active duty military members and their families by exposing them to the wonderful accommodations, recreational and cultural activities, and other attractions available in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Tenorio. ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds
The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).
A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

I. ***Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2010 $339,290.00.***
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program**
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants are made available by the Department of Justice to fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The purpose for this category is to provide "at-risk" youth and delinquent offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs or projects may include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, youth centers, outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self- image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

1. ***Title II Formula Grant: FY 2010: $30,000.00.***
The OJJDP Title II grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program has four core-requirements that must be maintained. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

2. ***Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2010 $20,177.00.***
Established in the 1992 through the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, the Title V grant program is made available to funds collaborative and community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program integrates six (6) fundamental principles and they are: comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Title V provides funding and a framework to enable communities to develop and implement comprehensive 3-year prevention/strategic plans that are designed to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and decrease juvenile problem behavior.

3. ***Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2010 $54,000.00.***
The JABG grant program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 as amended. As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-allotted agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective program purpose areas in order to use their awards.
- Under the JABG FY2010, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: DPS-JPU: $9,000.00; ***DYS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JDU: $9,000.00; PDO: $9,000.00; OAG: $9,000.00; FCD: $9,000.00;***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2010 $312,000.00
Awarded to all territories including CNMI for FY 08, the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant program are funds made available to supports and enhances efforts by states and territories to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. *(Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.)* ***Innovative Programs: $100,000.00; Public Advertising: $12,000.00.***

Pre-allotted agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective program purpose areas in order to use their awards.

Under EUDL FY2010, the pre-alloted agencies below are allotted the following amounts:
- ***Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00;***
- ***Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00;***
- ***Commerce ABTC-EUDL: $50,000.00;***

III. ***Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2010 $250,479***
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for direct service providers of victims of crime only. VOCA funds can support trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Note: The FY2010 STOP-VAWA Grant Program funding is not available at this time. A separate announcement will be published as soon as funds available.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 8, 2010.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) send in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4553/4554/4556 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp. Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

/s/ Ignacio Aguiningoc
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

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Nation

Ga. megachurch pastor accused in sex scandal

ATLANTA (AP)—As a Christian author, gospel singer and leader of one of the nation's best-known black megachurches, Bishop Eddie Long finds a wide audience for messages such as marriage is "between one man and one woman." Those words hung heavy Wednesday over accusations that the TV preacher, a married father of four, used jewelry, cars and cash to lure three young men into sexual relationships.

Long

Lawsuits filed Tuesday and Wednesday say the young men were 17 or 18 years old at the time, enrolled in New Birth Missionary Baptist Church's ministry for teen boys.

A lawyer for Long, who writes books on heterosexual relationships and has strong ties to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family, adamantly denied the allegations.

Few at Long's 25,000-strong church will discuss the situation, and the grounds were quiet Wednesday save for a small group walking in prayer. But those who will speak say they are supporting him.

Lance Robertson, who joined New Birth nearly two decades ago and has coached youth basketball there, said Wednesday that members were hurting.

"I support and will stand with my bishop, but right now in the court of public opinion, it does not look good," Robertson said.

ACROSS THE NATION

US military finds 2 sets of remains in Tarawa

HONOLULU (AP)—A U.S. military team returned from the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa this week with the remains of what are believed to be two U.S. servicemen who died in a fierce World War II battle there. A C-17 plane with the remains landed at Hickam Air Force Base after a 6 1/2-week excavation mission, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command spokesman Army Maj. Ramon Osorio said Wednesday. Forensic scientists will analyze the bones to identify them. The process can take months or even years.

Ohio real estate agents killed; another robbed

KENT, Ohio (AP)—Two real estate agents were killed in vacant homes for sale and another was robbed all within a week, prompting frightened agents in northeast Ohio to cancel open houses and avoid meeting prospective buyers alone. Two brothers were arrested Tuesday in the Sept. 15 robbery of a real estate agent who showed them an apartment in Boardman Township. Police were investigating whether the robbery is related to the first homicide in nearby Youngstown, but authorities said the investigation into the second death was focused on a person who is not one of the brothers. Vivian Martin, 67, was found dead on the kitchen floor in a burning home Monday in Youngstown, said police chief Jimmy Hughes. An autopsy showed she was strangled before the home burned down, and the fire was ruled an arson.

2 new dinosaur species discovered in southern Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Scientists said Wednesday they've discovered fossils in the southern Utah desert of two new dinosaur species closely related to the Triceratops, including one with 15 horns on its large head. The discovery of the new plant-eating species—including Kosmoceratops richardsoni, considered the most ornate-headed dinosaur known to man—was reported Wednesday in the online scientific journal PLoS ONE, produced by the Public Library of Science. The other dinosaur, which has five horns and is the larger of the two, was dubbed Utahceratops gettyi. "It's not every day that you find two rhino-sized dinosaurs that are different from all the other dinosaurs found in North America," said Mark Loewen, a Utah Museum of Natural History paleontologist and an author of the paper published in PLoS ONE.

Obama heckled on AIDS, gay rights at fundraiser

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama got heckled at a fundraiser Wednesday night by protesters pushing for more funding for AIDS programs and quicker action to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

Activists yelled slogans and held signs aloft reading "Obama broken promises KILL." Supporters of the president tried to drown them out with shouts of "O-bam-a! O-bam-a!"

The hecklers were so raucous Obama went off-script several times to address them, insisting he's increased AIDS funding and is working to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. He told them to go shout at Republicans, noting that a vote on repealing "don't ask, don't tell" failed this week in the Senate, with Republicans united in opposition.

Tax, spending cuts top GOP campaign-year 'Pledge'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Six weeks before midterm elections, House Republicans vowed to cut taxes and federal spending, repeal President Barack Obama's health care law and ban federal funding of abortion as part of a campaign manifesto designed to propel them to victory in November and a majority in the next Congress.

The "Pledge to America," circulated to GOP lawmakers Wednesday, emphasizes job creation and spending control, as well as changing the way Congress does business. It steered clear of controversial issues such as Social Security and Medicare, big drivers of deficit spending.

It pairs some familiar Republican ideas—such as deep spending cuts, medical liability reform and stricter border enforcement—with an anti-government call to action that draws on tea party themes and echoes voters' disgruntlement with the economy and Obama's leadership.

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Human Resources
Mobil Oil Guam Inc.
642 East Marine Corps Drive
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
Email: marlenna.taitague@exxonmobil.com

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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	September 24, 2010	**POSITION:**	Cashier (1)
CLOSE DATE:	October 8, 2010	**SALARY:**	Minimum Wage
Job Qualification:	Must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Must have at least one year of experience. Special training or other certification (if applicable).		
OPEN DATE:	September 24, 2010	**POSITION:**	Lifeguard/Prim (4)
CLOSE DATE:	October 8, 2010	**SALARY:**	Minimum Wage
Job Qualification:	Must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Must be able to pass the swimming test. Lifeguard certification is a plus.		

For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

Employment application forms are available at Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applications must include all the necessary requirements and submit employment application to the Security Office for logging.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Asia

Report limits blame over Manila hostage crisis

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Only one of eight government and police officials blamed for last month's bungled hostage rescue in Manila that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead should face criminal charges, according to a government report seen Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim should immediately face administrative and criminal complaints for alleged blunders that caused the daylong hostage standoff on Aug. 23 to degenerate into a bloody end, said a report by a fact-finding committee. Seven other officials should not face charges unless a future investigation substantiates them.

President Benigno Aquino III told reporters in New York, where he is on an official visit, that he did not want criminal complaints filed without certainty the cases were merited. "You do not unnecessarily prosecute people, if it's not warranted," he said.

Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno, the highest official blamed for the botched rescue, offered to resign Wednesday.

Puno, who helped oversee the blunder-ridden rescue, said he will submit his resignation letter when Aquino returns next week.

"If I'll be a burden to the president, I'm willing to resign," Puno told a news conference.

The bungled rescue attempt left eight Hong Kong tourists and the lone hostage-taker—dismissed police officer Rolando Mendoza—dead on a bus parked at a historic Manila park in a standoff watched by millions on live TV.

The incident damaged ties with China and Hong Kong, which warned against travel to the Philippines, prompting thousands of tourists to cancel bookings.

It sparked Aquino's first major crisis, less than two months into his presidency.

Aquino on Monday ordered a fact-finding report to be released to China and the public, but withheld release of a crucial section—seen Wednesday by AP—that placed much of that blame on Lim and Manila Police Chief Rodolfo Magtibay, saying they had failed to perform their roles in overseeing the crisis.

◀ Amy Leung, center, wife and mother of the Hong Kong family Ken Leung Kam Wing, Miss Doris Leung Chung See and Miss Jessie Leung Song Yi, who were killed in the Manila hostage incident, attends the funeral of her loved ones in Hong Kong on Friday, Sept. 17, 2010.

AP

Among other lapses, Lim and Magtibay left the scene for a restaurant before the hostage-taker started shooting the hostages. Magtibay allegedly defied Aquino's order to deploy an elite police commando team but instead used a local SWAT team, the report said.

The report lamented a plethora of errors that "conspired to produce the tipping point."

It was not immediately clear why charges were not recommended against Magtibay. He was replaced by another officer during the standoff and subsequently lost his job as police chief.

Lim, himself a former Manila police chief, has angrily denied the allegations. On the verge of tears, he defended himself and the police in front of TV cameras, reminding the public of the risk that law enforcement officers face while in the line of duty.

Two radio journalists accused of tying up the hostage-taker's telephone line by interviewing him during the standoff may face complaints for not adhering to ethical rules in covering the crisis, the report said. The radio station's manager and staff may also face complaints, as could the country's three major TV networks, which aired the crisis live.

2 teams delay leaving for troubled games in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—The idea sounded good: Put international sports festivals like the Commonwealth Games in countries such as India to broaden the stage for international competitions and encourage economic development.

It had been done before, with the Olympics in China two years ago and the Pan American Games in South America and Cuba in the 1980s and '90s.

This time, it is backfiring. Instead of showing the world that it is a modern, global power, India is being castigated for its lack of preparation.

With barely a week to go before the games begin, frantic last-minute preparations are verging on chaos, international sports officials are furious and the games have become an international embarrassment that could threaten plans for major sporting events in other developing nations.

Scotland and Canada said Wednesday they would delay their departures to New Delhi because of the unfinished athletes' village, and New Zealand followed their lead Thursday.

Earlier, an official with the New Zealand swimming team said international swimming federations could quickly stage an alternative meet if the games were canceled.

The Australian government said Thursday it was sending experts to assess the hygiene conditions in the village and has upgraded its travel advice to alert tourists to possible construction "deficiencies" after a bridge collapsed and the ceiling at a games venue caved in.

Australian media outlets reported Federal Police officers would travel with the team as extra security, while Prime Minister Julia Gillard confirmed only that "We have boosted the number of officials we have in New Delhi and we have others on standby."

The *Times of India* summed the problems with a front-page headline: "C'wealth Games India's Shame."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US: Dead in Afghan chopper crash were all American

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—All nine troops killed in a helicopter crash earlier this week—the worst for the coalition forces in four years—were Americans, the Pentagon confirmed, although it refused to provide further information on why the aircraft went down. NATO said there were no reports of enemy fire in a rugged area in the Daychopan district of Zabul province, where the crash took place on Tuesday. But Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi told The Associated Press by telephone that insurgents shot down the helicopter. The Taliban often exaggerate their claims and sometimes take credit for accidents.

NKorea promotes 3 key diplomats in reshuffle

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday it promoted three senior officials involved in nuclear negotiations with the United States in a reshuffle ahead of its biggest political convention in decades. First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju, who negotiated a deal with the U.S. in 1994 to freeze and ultimately dismantle North Korea's nuclear reactor in exchange for economic aid, was promoted to vice premier, who oversees the country's foreign policy, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported. The legislature also promoted Pyongyang's top nuclear envoy, Kim Kye Gwan, and his deputy, Ri Yong Ho, to first vice foreign minister—the No. 2 position in the ministry—and vice foreign minister, respectively, KCNA said.

56 pilot whales die after stranding on NZ beach

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Only 24 of several dozen pilot whales stranded on a remote northern New Zealand beach survived a stormy first night ashore despite rescuers' desperate efforts to save them, officials said Thursday. Large waves and strong winds lashed Spirits Bay as rescuers struggled to move survivors above the tide-line. It was the second mass beaching in the region in a month. "As of this morning, there have been 24 live animals moved out of the tide up onto the beach out of harms' way," Department of Conservation spokeswoman Caroline Smith said. "The weather is terrible up there. We have 20 knot winds and 1.5 to 2 meter (5 to 7 foot) swells, so it is not possible to refloat them at Spirits Bay."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-NMC-168

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 7, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SHOW CAUSE CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA COLLEGE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO rogerm@nmcnet.edu NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT AND AS SUCH; LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT APPLICABLE.

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA** SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
/s/ **LORRAINE T. CABRERA** INTERIM PRESIDENT
/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is asking for your comments on the following proposed amendments (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map of sheet #23 from Village Residential to Mixed Commercial: This includes lot 409-1-R1 in As Terlaje, located on Msgr. Guerrero Road just north of, and down the hill from, the Northern Marianas College. Request was made by Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **Monday, October 25, 2010**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Office conference room**

The proposed map change may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan or on Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page). After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve the change to the Official Zoning Map.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 25 2010. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Mr. Douglas Wyatt at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Commonwealth Zoning Board will be held on Monday, October 25, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports
1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearing.
1. A request by Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. to rezone lot# 409-1-R1 in the village of As Terlaje from "Village Residential" to "Mixed Commercial". This site is located on Msgr Guerrero Road just north of, and down the hill from, the Northern Marianas College. The rezoning will extend a "Mixed Commercial" district to the north across lot 398 & 400 and then capture lots 409-1-R1, 409-1-1, and 409-1-R/W which are owned by the applicants. Lots E.A. 829, H157, and 409-2 would then be rezoned from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial".

D. Old Business.
1. None

E. New Business.
1. Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008. Staff will review certain sections

F. Executive (Closed) Session. None

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

World

Violence in east Jerusalem clouds peace efforts

JERUSALEM (AP)—Crowds of Palestinian youths violently rampaged in east Jerusalem Wednesday following the shooting death of a local man, clouding fragile peace efforts even as the Palestinian president signaled he may back away from threats to quit negotiations if Israel resumes West Bank settlement construction.

At one point, Israeli riot police stormed the hilltop compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary—the most explosive site in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the place where the last Palestinian uprising began almost exactly 10 years ago.

That uprising—which killed thousands of people over some five years of violence—erupted after a failed U.S.-led peace effort at Camp David. Wednesday's outburst comes less than a month after the sides resumed peace negotiations, at a tense moment when those talks are already facing possible collapse over Israel's plans to end its 10-month slowdown of construction in the Jewish settlements of the West Bank.

The "moratorium" on construction was declared last November under intense U.S. pressure to help coax the Palestinians into talks with the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who—despite having accepted the principle of a Palestinian state—inspires very little faith in the Palestinians. Netanyahu said all along that the measure would end on Sunday—and the Palestinians have threatened to walk away from the talks if this occurs.

AP

A masked Palestinian youth uses a slingshot to hurl stones at Israeli police officers during clashes at the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010.

The impasse and looming deadline have created a palpable tension that has built throughout the week.

On Monday, Israel's deputy premier made a public call on the Palestinians to abandon their demand, casting such a move as a mutual "compromise" in which Israel might retain some of the restrictions. On Tuesday, Israel's military chief warned that a collapse of the talks could well lead to violence.

Meanwhile, the Israeli political system braced for either outcome. If Netanyahu backs down and extends the freeze, troubles with his pro-settler coalition partners are likely and he would have to persuade the centrist Kadima party to join the coalition.

Iraqi: Saddam 'delighted' in terror attacks on US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, a prominent member of Saddam Hussein's inner circle, told the FBI that the dictator "delighted" in the 1998 terrorist bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa but had no interest in partnering with Osama bin Laden, declassified documents show.

"Saddam did not trust Islamists," Aziz said, according to handwritten notes of a June 27, 2004 interrogation, although he viewed al-Qaida as an "effective" organization.

The FBI notes are among hundreds of pages of interrogation records of top Iraqi officials—including Saddam—provided to the AP this week in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. While most of the Saddam records had been previously released, the National Security Archive, an independent research institute at George Washington University, said the FBI had previously refused to declassify Aziz's records.

The records are from an FBI operation code-named Desert Spider, which sought to compile evidence of the Saddam regime's war crimes and to test the theory that Saddam and his intelligence services had some form of cooperation with al-Qaida prior to the U.S. invasion in 2003.

The FBI had previously released summaries of its 20 sessions with Saddam, in which he denied any relationship with bin Laden but appeared to acknowledge that some Iraqi officials had met him.

More than seven years after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, suspicions Saddam might have secretly collaborated with al-Qaida or other terror groups remains central to the continuing debate over the wisdom of launching the war, which has cost more than 4,400 U.S. lives The administration of former President George W. Bush based its case for war in part on fears that Iraq might provide nuclear arms to al-Qaida for use against the U.S.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN promotes health campaign for women, children

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The world's nations pledged more than $40 billion to battle needless deaths among poor mothers and their children, and President Barack Obama spoke about what America can do to help the U.N.'s ambitious development goals. But the struggling world economy, particularly in the United States, raises deep concerns that the cash won't be forthcoming. Leaders exhorted financial donors to fulfill their aid commitments. "The crisis is no excuse for letting up our efforts, but underscores the need for actions," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as he wrapped up the three-day Millennium Development Goals summit. With many countries still hurting from the global economic crisis, the secretary-general has repeatedly urged governments not to abandon the world's 1 billion people living on less than $1.25 a day. The United States and Britain said they will continue to do their part to help the global poor.

3 French employees kidnapped from ship off Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Pirates armed with Kalashnikov rifles clashed with Nigerian navy forces in a failed bid to take over an offshore oil platform, then kidnapped three French employees of a marine services company while retreating, a Nigerian official said Wednesday. Navy Commodore David Nabaida said a Thai employee also may have been taken hostage by the pirates during the attack, which began early Wednesday morning. The French-flagged vessel *Bourbon Alexandre* was working in an offshore oil field operated by Addax Petroleum, a subsidiary of Chinese state-owned oil producer Sinopec Group.

Vatican says bank probe fueled by misunderstanding

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican said Wednesday the seizure by police of euro23 million ($30 million) from a Vatican bank account and the investigation of two top bank officials was due to a simple misunderstanding that should be clarified quickly. In a front-page article Wednesday, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano also provided details about the investigation, saying it began when the Bank of Italy tipped off authorities to a possible violation of anti-money laundering norms by the Vatican bank. Italian financial police seized the money as a precaution Tuesday, and Rome prosecutors placed the bank's chairman, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, and his director general, Paolo Cipriani, under investigation for alleged mistakes linked to violations of the norms.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for the four (4) loading bridges. All proposers must show proof of loading bridge repair or similar experience. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 3, 2010. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport".* One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements
AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements
AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69 (Project No. CPA-SA-011-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Firefighters: TV left in sun likely caused blaze

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—A big-screen television left outside in the sun this week was blamed for a fire that caused minor damage to a Springfield apartment. Assistant Fire Chief Randy Villines called the blaze "bizarre" and said mirrors inside the projection TV likely bounced and concentrated sunlight enough to start a fire. The TV was left outside the apartment building Monday with the screen facing toward a parking lot. The Springfield News-Leader reported that one person was arrested at the scene on suspicion of an unrelated charge, but Villines declined to give additional details. One apartment complex resident was treated for smoke inhalation but refused further treatment. Officials said a sprinkler system installed on the outside patio possibly prevented the blaze from spreading more rapidly to the wooden balconies above the patio.

UK book halts traffic after truck turns over

LONDON (AP)—Andrew Marr's latest book is, literally, stopping traffic. Boxes containing 15 British tons (16.8 U.S. tons) worth of the journalist's history volume "The Making of Modern Britain" have been strewn across a busy English road after an accident. Thames Valley Police said Wednesday that a truck carrying books overturned about 40 miles west of London just before midnight on Tuesday. The driver suffered cuts to his arms, and the road was closed throughout the night as the books were cleared away. Video footage on the BBC website showed smashed-open boxes of the book piled by the roadside. "The Making of Modern Britain" is described by its publisher as "a fascinating portrait of life in Britain during the first half of the 20th century." Marr, a BBC reporter and presenter, apologized to anyone who had been inconvenienced, and said he hoped the book was not "being taken off to be pulped."

Missing Maroa boa found by surprised driver

MAROA, Ill. (AP)—An out-of-its-element boa constrictor missing in central Illinois' corn and soybean country since late last month has been found. Unfortunately for the snake, it was found by a surprised driver who accidentally drove over the reptile. Maroa police officer Bill Koonce told the Decatur Herald & Review the snake was run over Tuesday near a local high school. Macon County Animal Control officers took the snake to a veterinarian. It isn't clear how the snake is doing, but Koonce says it appears to be moving as if it is OK. The snake's owner reported it missing from his home in Maroa on Aug. 31. Maroa is near Decatur. Boas are native to Central and South America. Local officials worried that if the snake wasn't found it wouldn't survive winter.

Pa. man collected dead dad's benefits since 1985

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A Pittsburgh-area man collected more than $341,000 in federal railroad pension benefits on behalf of his father, even though his father died in 1985. Sixty-eight-year-old Richard Burns, of West Mifflin, will be sentenced Jan. 21 after pleading guilty Tuesday to theft of government funds. Burns' father was collecting U.S. Railroad Retirement Board benefits when he died 25 years ago. Federal prosecutors said Burns continued to have the money deposited into a joint bank account he had with his father, because the federal pension board was never notified of the father's death. Burns faces up to 10 years in prison though his sentence will be determined largely by federal guidelines that take into account his criminal history, if any, and other factors.

ND Supreme Court upholds $12K bank overdraft fee

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—North Dakota's Supreme Court said a bank acted reasonably when it charged a customer almost $12,000 in overdraft fees. Lynette Cavett of Enderlin said the fees were "unconscionable." But a judge ruled the Quality Bank of Fingal disclosed the fees and Cavett paid them for four years without complaining. The Supreme Court upheld the ruling Tuesday. Court records said Cavett challenged the fees when the bank sued her in November 2008 to foreclose on her hog farming operation and collect a $76,000 debt. Court records said from January 2004 until June 2008, Cavett was charged 842 overdraft fees. They varied according to the overdraft amount. The bank charged $100 a day for carrying an overdraft greater than $10,000.

Conn. marshal apologizes for taking lap dance

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut state marshal has apologized for paying $15 for a lap dance at a New Haven strip club when he went there to serve a city tax warrant to the owner. The New Haven Register reports that Marshal William Nolan broke down crying and apologized while testifying Tuesday before two members of the State Marshal Commission, who will be recommending to the full board whether Nolan should be disciplined. Commission members have found probable cause that Nolan unreasonably blurred the lines between professional and personal conduct at Stage Door Johnny's last March.

Elderly Ky. woman survives after house explodes

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Fire officials say an elderly woman was treated and released from the hospital with minor injuries after her house exploded while she was lighting her gas stove. Officials said a corroded gas line had caused natural gas to leak into the house. When the woman who lived there tried to light the gas stove with a match Tuesday morning, the gas ignited, blowing out some of the doors and windows and igniting the side of the house next door. Lisa Smith, a spokeswoman for Columbia Gas, said a gas company employee reported the explosion just before 9 a.m. EDT. Neighbors say the elderly woman lived alone and was in her 80s. They said she had lived in the house for decades.

Man arrested after picking fight with pet parrot

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—A 49-year-old Jackson man has been arrested in Ann Arbor following a fight with the pet parrot carried in his backpack. Police told Annarbor.com for a story Wednesday that witnesses reported the colorful bird was shaken so violently that its feathers were scattered. Three 911 calls were made following the Tuesday night incident. Lt. Renee Bush said the parrot was "squawking loudly" when officers arrived. But the bird was fighting back, leaving one of its owner's thumbs "scratched and bloodied." The parrot suffered a red eye and bald patches. Bush said it also was limping. The owner told officers he was disciplining and training the bird.

Guards find cell phone inside NC inmate's rectum

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina prison officials said an inmate from Raleigh tried to smuggle a cell phone into prison in his rear end. Court documents show that 25-year-old Eric Chambers was charged after setting off metal detectors at Central Prison. Chambers handed over a flattened piece of metal hidden in his mouth, but set off the detectors again. That's when guards found the red-and-silver "flip-style" cell phone hidden in his rectum. Chambers was convicted in 2008 of being a habitual felon and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Investigators said he was using the phone as part of a drug-dealing operation.

Science & Technology

Dropbox: Online backup option

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

I've gotten a number of questions recently from people who are buying new computers. As you're getting set up, it's worth taking a few minutes to integrate online backup and synchronization into your system.

The most popular online storage software is called Dropbox, http://www.dropbox.com. This easy-to-use software creates a folder on your computer, and any file or folder that you drop into it is copied onto any other computer with Dropbox installed.

It's truly seamless, and there's little indication that the program is even there. It just works quietly in the background, detecting new files and changes to old files, uploading them to "the cloud" (online storage), and downloading them to other machines you designate. It's easy to set up, doesn't use a lot of your system resources, and is cross-platform, allowing you to sync files on your Windows, Mac or Linux computers.

We've been using Dropbox for some time now, and the benefits keep piling up:

■ Offsite backup: You should be backing up your files to an external hard drive to protect yourself against internal hard drive failure.

But external drives can still be lost to fire, flood, theft or other disaster. Dropbox and other online storage solutions keep irreplaceable files such as wedding pictures or baby videos out of harm's way.

■ File synchronization: If you're frequently using, accessing and changing your documents on multiple computers, Dropbox makes sure you have the most up-to-date files available on whichever machine is nearest. You also can store your iTunes library or Firefox profile in your Dropbox, and they will sync to all of your computers.

■ Network share: If you want to copy a file from one of your computers to another one, just drop it into Dropbox. Unless it's a huge file, by the time you walk from your laptop to your desktop, it'll be there.

The program also allows you to share documents with people in a workgroup. Just create a Dropbox account for the team, install it on all of your computers, and you're set.

■ Online access to files: Using any computer with Internet access, you can log onto Dropbox.com and view, edit and resave all important files on your home computer.

■ Version history: We've all been there—you hit "save" rather than "save as" and lose the old version of your document. Or you delete something by mistake and can't get it back. Using Dropbox's Web portal, you can access and restore past versions of documents with just a right-click.

■ File sharing: Dropbox makes it easy to share files that are too big to e-mail. Place the file in a designated folder, right-click on it, copy the link that Dropbox provides and send as e-mail.

Programs such as AirDropper let you send a link others can use to upload files directly into your Dropbox.

Enough 'Farmville'? Facebook revamps game updates

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 200 million people play games on Facebook each month. This means about 300 million members of the world's largest online social network don't. To ensure that those who love "Farmville" and those who can't stand the constant invitations to play can stay friends, Facebook is making some changes.

People who don't play a particular game won't get notices in their news feeds when friends send gifts of pigs or plum trees. Previously, they had to hide or block the game or the players to escape the steady stream of updates.

Facebook will make game updates even more prominent for those who do enjoy tending virtual pastures, taking down rival mob bosses in "Mafia Wars" or cleaning out the fish tank in "Happy Aquarium."

TECH Q&A

E-readers mishandle some book formats

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Some new e-readers for electronic books create an interesting problem: It's now possible to own a book you can't read.

The problem occurs with free electronic books that have been digitized in the widely used PDF file format for PCs equipped with the free Adobe Reader program. These PDF files sometimes don't display properly on tiny e-reader screens, even though they're compatible.

I decided to see how the Amazon Kindle e-reader would display some PDF files of classic books, including the novel "All Quiet on the Western Front" and two collections of Sherlock Holmes short stories. The books are free to download to a PC because their copyrights have expired.

But, in a problem daunting enough for Holmes, the words in these PDF files shrank to nearly microscopic size when I transferred them to the smaller Kindle screen. The Kindle could make the type larger, but it failed to compensate by reducing the number of words per line. As a result, every page ran off the edge of the screen, making it necessary to scroll back and forth to read each line. This occurred only with free PDF files; the for-pay books in Kindle format resized automatically to fit the screen.

Seeking a solution, I used my PC to adjust the type in the PDF files before transferring them to the Kindle. The Adobe Reader software did enlarge the type size and rearrange the lines so they didn't run off the edge of the page, but it refused to save the changes. For that I needed the $299 Adobe Acrobat program.

Rather than pay that much, I downloaded the literary works again, this time in HTML Web page format — which, unfortunately, the Kindle can't read. I copied and pasted the words from these files into Microsoft Word, and used Word to nearly double the type size (to 20 or 22 points.) Word automatically rearranged the lines so none ran off the side the screen. Then I used Word's "save as" feature to store the books as new PDF files.

When transferred to the Kindle's small screen, the giant PDF type shrank dramatically but remained easily readable. No doubt Holmes would have solved the problem much sooner.

E-readers mishandle some book formats

■ ■ ■

QUESTION: Recently we decided to try using a first-generation iPod Touch again. But we found that the apps we wanted required the newer 3.0 operating system, which I can't find on iTunes. (It can't use the new 4.0 operating system.) Do we have an antique Touch?—Steve Adams, Minnetonka, Minn.

ANSWER: No, you can still buy the 3.1 operating system for a first-generation Touch. Go to http://tinyurl.com/onu2dr, which provides a link to the right section of iTunes.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. E-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com.

Life & Style

John 'Junior' Gotti agrees to a movie about his life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood has produced no shortage of movies and TV shows about the mob, but this one's coming straight from the most high-profile source imaginable: John "Junior" Gotti has sold the rights to his life story.

The 46-year-old son of the late, legendary Gambino crime family leader, "Dapper Don" John Gotti, has agreed to a deal with the independent production company Fiore Films. Financial details weren't made available because of a signed nondisclosure agreement, but a film about Gotti's life is in the works with a production budget of $15 million.

Gotti

Gotti was tried four times since 2005 for racketeering, with each trial ending in a hung jury. He was released from prison in December after serving nine years in a previous racketeering case. He has said he left the life of organized crime in 1999.

These days, he's simultaneously working on a book and a screenplay with actor-writer Leo Rossi, which should be done by the end of the year. Casting should be announced around then, too, with shooting scheduled to begin in March. Fiore Films CEO Marc Fiore said Sylvester Stallone is among the people who've expressed interest in being involved both as director and star.

"I didn't realize how many fans the Gotti family had," Fiore said. "I'm getting calls from people we probably would not be able to speak to yet because of the infancy of our company."

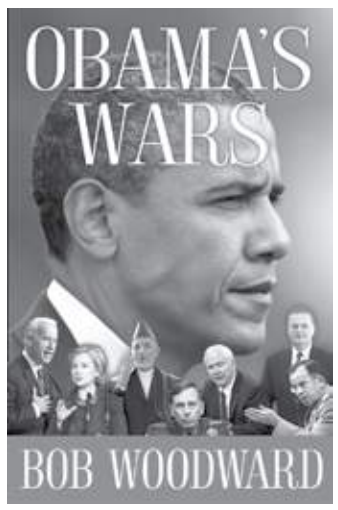
Gotti said he chose this company because it was local and because it would let him tell his story.

"It's going to be filmed in New York, I've been working on it in New York, we can be an active player in the situation from start to finish," Gotti said Tuesday in a 30-minute, rare interview with The Associated Press. "They were willing to hear my thoughts and they assured me the script would be absolutely accurate, the script would be fair."

Gotti said previous movies about his family were mostly false because they relied on accounts from journalists or government agents. The HBO movie about his father, "Gotti" from 1996, was probably the most accurate of them all, he said, "and even that missed the mark by at least 40 percent."

Book unearths divisions over Obama war plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's early attempts to seize control of a neglected Afghanistan war yielded a strategy that pleased almost no one and hasn't turned the tide of a conflict near its 10th year.



Just how contentious that plan has been, inside the Obama White House as well as outside, is captured in Bob Woodward's new book. The account exposes the roots of an Afghanistan exit plan driven more by politics than national security and shows the president worried about losing the support of the public and his party.

"I have two years with the public on this," Obama is quoted as saying at one point, referring to what the administration still considers a finite well of public patience.

Such private fears have been aired publicly. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said the United States and its NATO partners must show clear progress by the end of this year or risk a collapse of public support.

The book, "Obama's Wars," reveals that Obama's aides were deeply divided over the war even as the president agreed to nearly triple troop levels in a gamble reminiscent of former President George W. Bush's Iraq war "surge."

"I want an exit strategy," Obama said at one meeting, as he and White House aides groused that the Pentagon brass was boxing him in.

He got one, at least on paper. Obama has said he will begin withdrawing forces in July 2011, an arbitrary date that many in the military see as artificial and perhaps premature.

Privately, Obama told Vice President Joe Biden to push his alternative strategy opposing a big troop buildup in meetings, according to the book.

Japan bars Paris Hilton after drug plea

BY SHINO YUASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NARITA, Japan (AP)—Paris Hilton canceled her Asia tour and returned home when she was denied entry at Tokyo's airport Wednesday following a drug violation in the U.S.—running afoul of strict Japanese laws that have tripped up celebrities from Paul McCartney to Diego Maradona.

"I'm going back home, and I look forward to coming back to Japan in the future," a smiling Hilton told reporters before departing on her private jet.

The 29-year-old celebrity socialite had arrived at Narita International Airport, outside the Japanese capital, two days after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor drug charge in Las Vegas. Japan has strict immigration laws that bar entry to those convicted of drug offenses, although exceptions are occasionally granted.

Hilton was to appear Wednesday at a news conference in Tokyo to promote her fashion and fragrance lines. She arrived Tuesday evening, but was stopped at the airport and spent the night at an airport hotel after being questioned by officials.

AP
U.S. socialite Paris Hilton arrives at the departure lounge of Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010. Hilton was denied entrance into Japan and is returning home to the U.S.

"I'm really tired," said Hilton, wearing a black baseball cap and a navy sweat suit.

Hilton also abruptly canceled planned appearances in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Jakarta, Indonesia.

Her publicist, Dawn Miller, said Hilton plans to make the trips at a later date.

"Paris is very disappointed and fought hard to keep her business commitments and see her fans, but she is forced to postpone her commitments in Asia," she said in a statement. "Paris understands and respects the rules and laws of the immigration authorities in Japan and fully wishes to cooperate with them."

A Japanese immigration official said she was denied entry Wednesday after a total of about six hours of questioning over the two days.

The country has taken a tough line with famous figures in the past.

Soccer icon Maradona was initially banned from entering the country during the 2002 World Cup finals for past drug offenses, but was eventually given a 30-day visa as a "special delegate."

The Rolling Stones struggled for years to gain entry to Japan and were eventually allowed in despite drug convictions among the group's members. In January 1980, former Beatles member McCartney was arrested for marijuana possession at Narita airport. He was deported without carrying out a planned concert tour by his rock group Wings.

In Loving Memory of our beloved Husband and Father

FRANCISCO DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO

ALSO KNOWN AS BOY

Born on September 25, 1941 and called to eternal rest on September 22, 2010

Predeceased by:
Parents: *Juan Campus Camacho and Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho*
Mother in Law: *Carmen Nekai Babauta*
Brothers and Sister & In Laws: *Jose Deleon Guerrero Camacho, Rosalia Camacho Flores and Lorenzo T. Flores, Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho and Rita T. Camacho, and Magdalena Camacho Benavente*

Survived by:
Spouse: *Victoria Babauta Camacho*
Children: *Cathryn Beth and Bernard P. Villagomez (Camille Victoria, Chloe Elizabeth, and Bernard Jr.), Claudine Babauta Camacho, Michelle Clarice Camacho and Walter I. Macaranas (Francisco Andres, Devin Jared, and Tyler Joshua), Neda Carin Babauta Camacho*

Father and Stepmother In-Law: *Santiago Miyasaki Babauta and Nobuko T. Babauta*
Brothers and Sister & In Laws: *Marcelino Deleon Guerrero and Cecilia T. Camacho, Margarita Deleon Guerrero Camacho*

Brothers and Sisters in Law:
Margarita B. Camacho, Ana and Tito Bansil, Juan N. and Charlene T. Babauta, Felipe N. and Aurelia Q. Babauta, Janet B. and Ben Pereda, Luis N. and Alice Babauta, Cecilia B. and William Benavente, and James N. Babauta and Laura Buckneil

And numerous nieces and nephews.

Evening mass is being offered at 6 pm at San Roque Church followed by nightly rosary. Funeral arrangements will be announced on a later date.

Dangkulo na si yu'us maase. Thank you for your prayers.

Ginen I Familia

Fox crowns J-Lo, Tyler new 'American Idol' judges

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler will join Randy Jackson as "American Idol" judges next season, after months of turnover and speculation about the future of TV's top-rated show.

With pomp rivaling that of a U.S. Supreme Court appointment, Fox finally assembled the new pieces of the "Idol" panel that will be returned to its original three-member format for season 10.

Actress-singer-dancer Lopez and Aerosmith frontman Tyler will have the job of trying to match the offbeat chemistry of former judges Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul.

"This is 'American Idol'!" host Ryan Seacrest said after the new judges joined him on stage at the Forum arena, where the final national audition for next season's singing contest was held Wednesday.

The announcement was made before a crowd of several thousand who had gathered to try out, some cheering loudly for the cameras and all hoping to make it to the next round, when they'll be judged by the revamped panel. The mini-show was streamed live online by Fox.

Tyler said he wanted to join the show because "it's being a part of something much bigger than yourself. ... I want to bring some rock to this rollercoaster and show if you've got the heart, the talent, the feeling to do this you could be the next American Idol."

"I'm so excited," said Lopez, who scored a reported $12 million to join the show. "I'm looking for the next Michael Jackson."

The likely Lopez-Tyler pairing had been reported so frequently that Fox would have had to produce Betty White and 50 Cent instead to generate any surprise.

Cowell announced last January that he planned to leave to launch a new talent show for Fox in 2011, with newcomers Ellen DeGeneres and Kara DioGuardi exiting this summer. Abdul left in 2009 over a contract dispute. Jackson will be the only original judge when "American Idol" returns in January.

Though gone, Cowell wasn't forgotten at the news conference that followed the judges' unveiling.

The new judges as well as series producers were asked about the loss of Cowell and how much the acid-tongued Brit meant to the ratings.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, judges for season ten of American Idol are shown. From left, Steven Tyler, Jennifer Lopez, Randy Jackson and Ryan Seacrest are shown in an undated photo.

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Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:30
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Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

Synopsis
Kathryn Lasky's children's book series comes to the screen with this animated adaptation from director Zack Snyder (Watchmen) and Village Roadshow Pictures. The plot details a mythical race of barn owls whose realm is threatened by sinister outside forces.

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Michael Douglas, Shia LeBeouf
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Famous onscreen villain Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) returns to the big screen with Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, once again directed by Oliver Stone. This installment promises a "ripped from the headlines" plot, with Gekko teaching co-star Shia LaBeouf the ins and outs of criminal investments. Frost/Nixon's Frank Langella co-stars along with Susan Sarandon.

You Again

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
A woman (Kristen Bell) discovers that her brother is marrying an old arch nemesis of hers from high school in this Buena Vista comedy from director Andy Fickman (Race to Witch Mountain).

Devil

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Chris Mesina, Geoffrey Arend
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Alpha And Omega

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Justin Long, Christina Ricci
Children's, Family • Rated PG

The Town

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall
Crime • Rated R

Resident Evil: Afterlife

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

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Joaquin Phoenix to David Letterman: I'm sorry

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP

In this photo released by CBS, actor Joaquin Phoenix, left, joins host David Letterman on the set of the "Late Show with David Letterman," Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Joaquin Phoenix returned to David Letterman's "Late Show" on Wednesday to apologize for his wacky appearance last year that turned out to be an elaborate piece of performance art.

"You've interviewed many, many people and I assumed that you would know the difference between a character and a real person, so—but I apologize," Phoenix said. "I hope I didn't offend you in any way."

No offense taken, Letterman replied. The chance to lob jokes at Phoenix was fun, he said.

Phoenix was clean-cut and shaven Wednesday, without the shaggy beard, unruly hair and sunglasses he wore on Feb. 11, 2009, when he told a befuddled Letterman that he was giving up acting for a rap career. Describing that appearance on Wednesday, Letterman said it was "like you slipped and hit your head in the tub."

Instead, Phoenix was playing a role for filmmaker friend Casey Affleck. The fake documentary on Phoenix's "career change," called "I'm Still Here," just hit theaters.

At Letterman's urging, Phoenix made clear that the talk-show host was not in on the joke.

"We'd hoped to come on a talk show," Phoenix said with a laugh, "and I was looking for a beat down, and I got one ... I want to thank you for that."

Doctor: 1,500 pills don't prove Smith was addicted

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pain-management doctor testified Wednesday that Anna Nicole Smith was not a drug addict, rebuffing a prosecutor who suggested the model's prescriptions for 1,500 pills in a single month amounted to an addiction.

"It speaks to potential danger and risk to the patient, but it doesn't speak to addiction," Dr. Perry G. Fine told jurors in the drug conspiracy trial.

Smith

Fine, who testified as a defense witness, said there might be a toxicity risk if Smith took all the drugs but added that her medical records showed no indication of actual harm.

The definition of an addict is central to the case against Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern, who have pleaded not guilty to providing drugs to an addict and other charges. They are not charged in Smith's drug overdose death in 2007.

Stern is a lawyer who was the late celebrity model's boyfriend.

Fine said he believed Smith had a high tolerance for drugs but was not addicted. He said medical records showed she had suffered fractured ribs and was seeking relief from chronic pain.

"She woke up and functioned from day to day," Fine said. "She was in recovery from rib fractures, and anyone's function would be highly limited."

Deputy District Attorney David Barkhurst had asked Fine whether Smith's prescriptions for 1,500 drug tablets in June 2004 might help determine if Smith was an addict.

Fine agreed with Superior Court Judge Robert Perry that it was a lot of drugs but said it was antiquated thinking to equate the number of pills with addiction. The pills included various opiates, muscle relaxants and other drugs.

Ardent Madonna fan arrested outside her NYC home

NEW YORK (AP)—A retired New York City firefighter yearning to meet Madonna has been accused of scrawling messages of adoration on the sidewalk outside her apartment building and possessing a 7.5-inch (19-centimeter) ice pick.

Robert Linhart is charged with graffiti and criminal possession of an ice pick recovered from his car. He's also charged with resisting arrest outside the building near Central Park.

Madonna

The 59-year-old was arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan Criminal Court. A judge set his bail at $20,000 cash.

Defense lawyer Cheryl Bader tells the Daily News there was "no threatening conduct" and it's "not a crime to adore Madonna," the singer of pop hits including "Like a Virgin" and "Material Girl."

Police say Linhart was arrested Tuesday while spray-painting messages to the singer and asking to meet her.

The fire department says Linhart retired in 1998.

Demi Moore suing Australian magazine over party photos

SYDNEY (AP)—A legal battle between actress Demi Moore and an Australian magazine over photos it published of a private post-Oscars party thrown by the star is scheduled for trial next week.

Moore is suing Pacific Magazines, the publisher of New Idea, for printing pictures taken at a 2008 party that show herself, her daughter Rumer Willis, and other stars.

Moore lodged a claim in 2008 stating she made an agreement with an event organizer that gave her copyright of the photos. She is seeking unspecified damages.

Her attorneys declined to comment or confirm media reports she plans to testify. Pacific Magazines also declined to comment.

The Melbourne Federal Court confirmed Wednesday that the trial begins Monday.

Country singer Shania Twain to write her autobiography

NEW YORK (AP)—Shania Twain is ready to talk about her recent divorce—and she'll do it in her autobiography.

Of course, Twain will discuss much more than her recent split with music producer Robert "Mutt" Lange. The country superstar announced Wednesday that her book will talk about her difficult childhood, including the death of her mother. She'll also chart her rise to become one of the top-sellers in music.

Twain says recent struggles created a "sudden urgency to document my life before I ran out of time."

The Grammy winner shot to fame in the 1990s with hits like "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" She had spent the past few years out of the spotlight.

AP
In this Nov. 12, 2010 photo, Singer Shania Twain arrives at the 42nd Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

She's due to have her own show on Oprah Winfrey's new OWN network.

Twain's book—which is untitled for now—will be published by Atria Books in the spring.

White goes wild as new chair of LA Zoo association

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Betty White's Hollywood renaissance now extends to the animal kingdom.

The 88-year-old actress has been named chairwoman of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association.

In the announcement posted Wednesday on the association's website, White says promoting animal well-being is the most important thing she does.

She has worked with the zoo for 46 years and was honored at June's Beastly Ball by the association, a nonprofit that raises money for the zoo and its causes.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa named her "Ambassador to the Animals of the City of Los Angeles" in 2006.

White has had a high-profile year that has included a buzzed-about hosting gig on "Saturday Night Live," the new TV Land series "Hot in Cleveland" and a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors' Guild.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Recovered, refreshed El DeBarge wants a 2nd chance

NEW YORK (AP)—It took El DeBarge 22 years to get off drugs—and he says watching performers like T.I. and Bruno Mars get into trouble over them only proves that everyone deserves a second chance. The 49-year-old singer says his heart goes out to T.I. and Mars. DeBarge says he knows that people experiment with drugs and that he did so because he was curious. Earlier this month, Los Angeles police caught T.I. with several pills confirmed to be a controlled substance. Mars was arrested this week in Las Vegas for allegedly possessing cocaine. DeBarge was jailed for two years following a 2008 drug possession arrest. He's planning the release of "Second Chance," his first album in 16 years.

Soccer star Thierry Henry buys NYC penthouse

NEW YORK (AP)—Soccer star Thierry Henry has paid $14.8 million for a triplex apartment in New York City. The listings broker for City Connections tells The Wall Street Journal that Henry made the offer after looking at the penthouse apartment in Manhattan's SoHo district three times. It includes a bamboo grove in an interior courtyard. The 33-year-old player could not be reached for comment. The French forward joined the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer this year. He was a member of the French teams that won the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship.

NY judge: 'Disturbia' did not copy short story

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge in New York has dismissed a copyright lawsuit that claimed the 2007 thriller "Disturbia" ripped off Alfred Hitchcock's classic "Rear Window." Federal Judge Laura Taylor Swain tossed out a lawsuit late Tuesday in which Steven Spielberg and others were sued by the estate of the literary agent who owned the rights to the 1942 short story, written by Cornell Woolrich, on which "Rear Window" was based. Woolrich died in 1968. "Disturbia" stars Shia LaBeouf as a kid who spies on neighbors, including a man he suspects is a serial killer. Swain said similarities between the story and "Disturbia" were not protected by copyright. She said they were similar only "at very general levels of abstraction." Messages left with lawyers on both sides were not immediately returned.

Art show by Rolling Stones' Wood starts up in Ohio

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood says he's pleased to see his art on the walls of an Ohio gallery instead of in his crowded studio. Wood says in the studio his paintings, pen and pencil drawings and mixed-media drawings look "like postage stamps" compared to the display that opened Tuesday at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown. The Butler Institute says the exhibition is the first for Wood at a major American museum and runs through Nov. 21. Youngstown's The Vindicator newspaper reports the show is dominated by celebrity portraits, including those of Stones bandmates Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts. The opening drew Stones fans such as Lena Natale, who said she drove four hours from Gettysburg, Pa., listening to the band's music all the way.

Newark, NJ, schools to receive Facebook donation

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The public school system in New Jersey's largest city is poised to receive $100 million from the founder of Facebook. Democratic Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Republican Gov. Chris Christie and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg are expected to announce the donation Friday on Oprah Winfrey's Chicago-based syndicated television show. Several media outlets including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Newark's The Star-Ledger reported the donation Wednesday night. They say Booker will gain some control over the troubled school system, which is run by the state and has some of its lowest test scores and poorest graduation rates. Christie opted last month not to rehire Newark's schools superintendent. A search for a successor is under way. Facebook is based in Palo Alto, Calif.

'Precious' director's sister charged in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—The sister of "Precious" director Lee Daniels has been charged with removing guns and cash from her California house following her husband's arrest on drug smuggling charges. Leah Daniels-Butler, a casting associate who helped discover "Precious" star Gabourey Sidibe, was charged Tuesday in Brooklyn with obstructing a federal investigation. She was ordered to wear an ankle monitoring bracelet and released on $50,000 bail. Her lawyer, Jim McMillan, declined comment, the Daily News reported. Federal authorities say Henry Butler was arrested after driving away from his Thousand Oaks, Calif., home on Aug. 3. He was accused of smuggling cocaine from Los Angeles to New York using overnight shipping.

War-zone romance will be put to the test at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I met a man here in Afghanistan. (We are both deployed.) Since that day we have been together. "Ben" knows that I love him very much. He is scheduled to leave in two months. I am scheduled to leave two months after that.

Ben lives in Georgia, and I come from Texas. We want to make it work when we leave here. I'll continue with my job, but because he's a contractor, Ben will be unemployed. I'm not worried about it because I know he's a go-getter.

Abby, I have had difficulty when it comes to relationships. I am scared to let my guard down and let this good man provide a life for my children and me. I trusted my kids' father and he walked out of our lives. Ben is everything I have prayed for. He took the step of giving me a promise ring and told me he'd always be here for me. Please give me some good advice on how I should handle this.

IN LOVE IN AFGHANISTAN

DEAR IN LOVE: Being under life-and-death pressure sharpens all of the senses. When people are in a strange or dangerous environment, their emotions can be heightened. This is not to say that people in a war zone can't fall legitimately in love—it does happen. And it may have happened for you and Ben. However, the test of the strength of your relationship will come after you are both back home in the USA.

You two have a ways to go before you step up to the altar. Your children need to meet Ben, get to know him and accept him. And he needs to prove to you that he can be not only a life partner to you, but a father to your children.

So my heartfelt advice is to take this one step at a time. Don't rush into anything. If this was meant to be, it will happen in its own time.

DEAR ABBY: A close female friend moved near me with the intention of starting a serious relationship. We're in our 20s and finishing college.

"Hallie" has just been diagnosed with stage 2 ovarian cancer. While her prognosis is fairly optimistic, her doctors say she'll be unable to have children. Hallie loves kids. Knowing she can't have any has broken her heart. I love kids, too, but it's not an absolute requirement for me.

I just started student teaching and can't be there for her during her chemo treatments and doctor visits. Last night, after a few days of pushing me away, Hallie offered me an "out." She told me I should think carefully about everything before deciding to go through all of this with her. I want to be with her in every way I can, but I can't help wondering how things may change for both of us if she beats this.

TORN APART IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TORN APART: Hallie is an intelligent young woman. She understands the strain a diagnosis like hers can place on a relationship, so do as she has asked. If she beats the cancer, and you stay together and decide to marry, you will be like many other childless couples—deciding whether to remain childless, adopt or hire a surrogate. You will also appreciate more fully than most what a gift each day you have together really is. And you'll love each other until death do you part.

DEAR ABBY: What is an acceptable time frame to receive a response to a question you send via phone texting?

WAITING IN MONTGOMERY, ILL.

DEAR WAITING: Although we live in a world where most of us seek instant gratification, the answer depends upon how busy the person you are texting is.

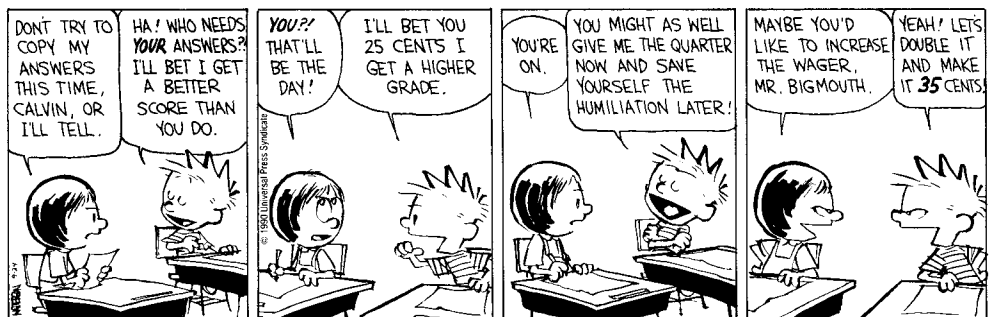
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DON'T TRY TO COPY MY ANSWERS THIS TIME, CALVIN, OR I'LL TELL.
HA! WHO NEEDS YOUR ANSWERS?! I'LL BET I GET A BETTER SCORE THAN YOU DO.
YOU?! THAT'LL BE THE DAY!
I'LL BET YOU 25 CENTS I GET A HIGHER GRADE.
YOU'RE ON.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE ME THE QUARTER NOW AND SAVE YOURSELF THE HUMILIATION LATER!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO INCREASE THE WAGER, MR. BIGMOUTH.
YEAH! LET'S DOUBLE IT AND MAKE IT 35 CENTS!
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL, GOOD NIGHT, LIZ
GOOD NIGHT, JON
JIM DAVIS 9-24
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I CAN'T KISS HER IF YOU'RE WATCHING, GARFIELD
I CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, LIZ
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.garfield.com

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GOOD MORNING. I HAVE A DENTAL EMERGENCY AND NEED TO COME IN ASAP... WHAT? NEXT MONDAY??
I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG. SO, I'LL BE COMING DOWN TO YOUR OFFICE STARTING TOMORROW..
...AND SINGING SHOW TUNES UNTIL THE DOC SEES ME... AND NOTE THAT I SPECIALIZE IN "WEST SIDE STORY."
...UH HUH... UH HUH... GREAT. SEE YOU IN AN HOUR.
HARRELL
www.gocomics.com
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9-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK I LIKED THE NIGHTLY NEWS BETTER BEFORE THEY ADDED THE LAUGH TRACK.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com
GLENN MCCOY
9/24

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Doo follower
4 Gift-tag word
8 Highway access
12 Have bills
13 Hawk-eyes' home
14 Satanic
15 Promontory
17 Part of N.B.
18 Accomplishment
19 Heart line?
20 Grinder
22 Dos cubed
24 "Metamorphoses" poet
25 Blended beverage
29 Author Deighton
30 Mimic's forte
31 Conclude
32 Equestrian showmanship
34 Senate staffer
35 Gumbo need
36 Obama's veep
37 Casual wear
40 Gasoline, e.g.
41 Deserve
42 Leeway
46 Genealogy chart
47 Surrounded by
48 Pool stick
49 Bedframe piece
50 As deemed appropriate
51 "Kid-tested, mother-approved" cereal

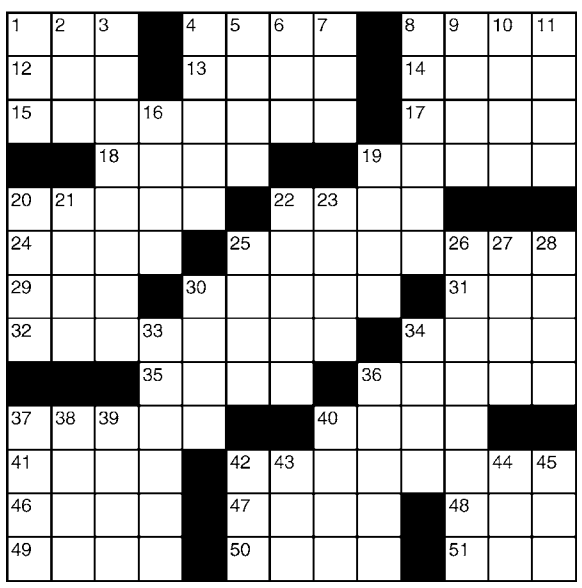
DOWN

1 Homer's interjection
2 Shock partner
3 Banner
4 Taxpayer, in April
5 Fork choice
6 Possess
7 Insane
8 Start the computer again
9 State with conviction
10 Mouthwash flavor
11 Entreaty
16 Out of play
19 "Hi, sailor!"
20 Shape
21 Finished
22 Last letter
23 Heart
25 Mast
26 Wrestling hold
27 Playwright William
28 Paradise
30 Inquires
33 14-line verse
34 Wharf
36 Pal
37 "West Side Story" gang
38 Count counterpart
39 Vicinity
40 Go belly-up
42 Possessed
43 Flightless bird
44 Overseas agreement?
45 Tex- — cuisine

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	P	■	W	A	C	■	A	H	E	M
I	N	C	A	■	A	G	A	■	T	A	R	O
F	O	U	R	■	L	O	P	■	S	N	A	P
I	N	M	A	T	E	■	T	I	E	D	■	■
■	■	■	D	E	S	P	I	C	A	B	L	E
S	A	M	O	A	■	R	O	Y	■	A	I	R
U	N	I	X	■	W	A	N	■	E	L	M	S
E	D	S	■	P	A	D	■	A	L	L	O	T
D	I	S	P	O	S	A	B	L	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	U	T	S	■	R	E	C	I	T	E
S	O	U	P	■	A	B	E	■	T	R	A	Y
P	E	R	I	■	I	R	A	■	R	I	M	E
A	R	I	L	■	L	A	M	■	A	S	P	S

Yesterday's answer 9-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Spencer Treat Clark, 23; Erin Chambers, 31; Nia Vardalos, 48; Kevin Sorbo, 52

Happy Birthday: This is the time to reunite with old friends and to make new ones. Surround yourself with people able to inspire and motivate you to move along toward your goals. Problems at home must be sorted out. Anyone holding you back must be dealt with before you can advance. Your numbers are 6, 14, 18, 24, 27, 30, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a creative stab at something you've wanted to produce for some time. It's not good to have idle time on your hands. A love relationship can take a passionate turn but be careful about how much you share. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Speak up if you have something to contribute. Now is not the time to let someone take advantage of you or push you around, especially if it has to do with work. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you try to take advantage of someone or try to get something for nothing you will be stopped in your tracks. Equality and balance, along with moderation and simplicity, will be required. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't mix business with pleasure. Your emotions will be difficult to control. Instead, make whatever adjustments are asked of you without complaining. Your patience and tolerance will lead to future advancement. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will be looking for a little adventure and, with the right group of people, you will find exactly what you are looking for. Be careful, however, when it comes to love. High standards and honesty will keep you from making a mistake. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Good fortune is within reach. A chance to sell something you've wanted to get rid of or taking care of financial paperwork will ease your tension and help you regroup and start anew. A short trip will lead to a romantic encounter. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Show your emotional side and let the people you care about most know how you feel. Don't give in to pushy behavior and you will have greater self-respect and will send the message that you want to be treated equally. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make plans to socialize with people you know who will inspire and motivate you. Change is upon you. Your ability to assess a situation and contribute responsibly will make you a promising candidate for a financially positive venture. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Deal with your responsibilities before moving on to more pleasurable pastimes. Expect someone you have to discuss plans with to cause problems or delays. Don't show disappointment but do offer to lend a helping hand. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Travel should be kept to a minimum. Problems with friends, relatives or siblings will keep you on your toes. Don't get emotional when what's required is a little common sense and practical application. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can expect to take on added responsibilities, but not ones you should mind. What you get in return for what's required of you will be well worth your time and effort. Physical problems will be magnified if you don't get proper rest and relaxation. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Promising to do the impossible may be a nice gesture but, when you cannot follow through, it will leave you in an awkward position. Take a closer look at what you have to offer, along with what your plans are for the future. It's time to make some hard choices. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious-minded, dedicated and set in your ways. You are detailed, precise and intent on doing what's right. You leave nothing to chance and strive for excellence.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	2		7	9		
		2		5		4		
			8					
4						7		1
	7			2			3	
5		3						9
					2			
		5		7		6		
		8	9		3	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	6	2	1	5	9	4	8
5	4	9	3	8	6	1	2	7
2	1	8	4	9	7	3	5	6
6	8	5	7	2	9	4	3	1
4	3	2	1	6	8	5	7	9
7	9	1	5	3	4	6	8	2
8	5	7	9	4	1	2	6	3
9	6	3	8	5	2	7	1	4
1	2	4	6	7	3	8	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RUSSIAN POTTERY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP **Solution: 7 letters**

H	B	L	U	E	R	A	W	N	E	H	T	R	A	E
S	S	U	O	R	O	M	A	L	G	L	O	S	S	C
I	D	T	F	A	R	C	I	D	N	A	H	H	O	N
L	S	E	N	N	N	E	E	R	G	Ⓨ	K	M	D	A
O	A	L	C	E	E	S	L	O	Ⓐ	E	P	C	E	I
P	A	N	L	O	N	S	R	Ⓡ	L	O	R	N	S	L
S	Y	C	O	O	R	O	Ⓣ	A	S	E	I	F	I	L
T	S	E	C	I	D	A	P	I	A	F	I	A	G	I
N	T	I	L	E	T	P	T	M	N	T	T	I	N	R
E	R	Q	T	L	E	I	W	I	O	G	S	E	S	B
M	I	S	U	A	O	A	D	M	V	C	I	N	P	R
A	K	E	L	N	R	W	R	A	E	E	T	C	O	I
N	I	A	L	E	C	R	O	P	R	T	R	E	O	G
R	N	S	T	E	S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	N	H
O	G	N	I	T	A	O	C	R	E	Y	A	L	S	T

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Appeal, Artist, Blue, Bright, Brilliance, Coating, Components, Composition, Creamware, Decorative, Designs, Dolls, Earthenware, Faience, Fine, Glamorous, Gloss, Gorodets, Green, Handicraft, Icons, Layer, Metal, Motifs, Nesting, Ornaments, Palekh, Patterns, Polish, Porcelain, Sets, Spoons, Striking, Traditional, Tray, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Jukebox

The NEW Treasury 9 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume; $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 130 puzzles, 35 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Military Relocation

On behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Department of the Army (Army), after carefully weighing the environmental consequences of the proposed action, as well as considering operational and training requirements, strategic requirements, obligations under treaties and other international agreements, public comments, and cost; announce their decision to proceed with the Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Military Relocation. A Record of Decision (ROD) has been prepared for the Guam and the CNMI Military Relocation based on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the careful consideration of all comments provided by federal regulatory agencies, Guam regulatory agencies, and the public.

Implementing the actions necessary to support the military relocation efforts analyzed in the EIS will be a multi-agency, multi-year effort undertaken by the DoN, Army, Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Guam utilities, Guam agencies, and various private entities. The ROD selects to implement the preferred alternatives as denoted in the FEIS for each of the following actions, with exceptions as noted:

(1) *Marine Corps:* (a) Development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support approximately 8,600 Marines and their 9,000 dependents being relocated from Okinawa to Guam. (b) Development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support training and operations on Guam and Tinian;
DoN has elected to defer selection of a specific site for the construction and operation of a live fire training range complex in the Route 15 area on Guam pending completion of the Section 106 consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Likewise, a selection regarding implementation of a roadway improvement project calling for a realignment of Route 15 is hereby deferred pending selection of a specific site for the construction.

(2) *Navy:* Construction of a new deep-draft wharf with shoreside infrastructure improvements creating the capability in Apra Harbor, Guam to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier;
DoN has elected to defer selection of a specific site for the construction and operation of a transient aircraft carrier berth within Apra Harbor for the near term. However, the analysis presented in the FEIS, including the marine resources impacts analysis, provides sufficient information to allow the DoN to fully consider the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of locating a transient aircraft carrier berth and make a programmatic decision to locate a transient aircraft carrier berth generally within Apra Harbor, which is the only deep draft harbor on the island of Guam that could support such a berth.

(3) *Army:* Development of facilities and infrastructure on Guam to support relocating approximately 600 military personnel and their 900 dependents to establish and operate an Air and Missile Defense Task Force (AMDTF).
As of the date of this ROD, the DoD has not decided to construct and operate an AMDTF on Guam. The decision on whether to assign this mission to the Army will be made pending the results of the ongoing regional and global Ballistic Missile Defense architectural and capability studies. It will also be based in part on the EIS for this proposed action with Guam as one site that is under consideration for an AMDTF mission. The FEIS was prepared noting that if the mission were assigned to Army, the alternatives presented in the FEIS represent how Army could implement the action on Guam. Army has selected the preferred alternatives described in Volume 5 of the FEIS as the appropriate manner to implement the proposed action if and when the mission is assigned.

(4) *Utilities:* Renovation and development of additional capacity for power, water, and wastewater systems, both on base and off base, to support the increased demand from the new Marine Corps Base and associated growth in DoD and civilian population caused by the Relocation.

(5) *Off-base Roadways:* Improvements to off base roads, bridges, and intersections to support increased traffic and offset significant impacts caused by the Relocation.

Each of the major actions noted above encompasses several construction projects to provide required facilities and infrastructure. The Notice of Availability and a summary of the ROD will be published in the Federal Register. The ROD in its entirety is available on http://www.guambuildupeis.us.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-11-002
DESIGN BUILD FOR SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AT LOWER BASE POWER PLANT 1 AND 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced design construction firms for the design and build of secondary containment at Lower Base Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The work includes some design of contract drawings and contruction of concrete containment. Deliverables also include submission of preliminary drawings, specifications, preparation of workplans for construction, then construction. The work must be completed by February, 15, 2011. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until October 1, 2010.**

One (1) original and Six (7) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-002 Design/Build of Secondary Containment at CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 & 2"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **October 8, 2010 at 10:00 AM. (CST) local time.** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at email msablan@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **October 1, 2010 at 9:30 AM (CST) local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Bldg.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **October 3, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Manager, Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Technical Manager for Oil, Mr. Will Sword via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract/s will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-017

RETROFIT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE No.1336-ENERGY OFFICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Retrofit of Government House No.1336-Energy Office, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after September 17, 2010 at DPW, Energy Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Energy Office, Capitol Hill.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for October 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site located at the DPW, Energy Office, Capitol Hill.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 p.m. to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division,** 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Pubic Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of ay addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW10-IFB-017". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 20, 2010. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 20, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 20, 2010, and must be received no later than October 29, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 3, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 25, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce) as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC ss 70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce) as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time of completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) Working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in Whole from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 through the U.S. Department of Energy. The Contractor shall ensure all ARRA requirements are met in a timely manner.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
Director, Energy Division

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-164

Tinian Health Center
Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Municipality of Tinian, TinianHealth Center, Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 8, 2010 to Mr. Stanley Good, Project Manager or Ms. Nerissa Benavente, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-164".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, October 15, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time October 15, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 15, 2010 and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. October 22, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time October 25, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on October 15, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must possess a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive or all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred twenty **(220)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred twenty (220) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Open Date: Sept. 24, 2010 — Position: General Maintenance
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For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL – Rota, Marshal Service Unit

REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must possess a valid CNMI driver's license and current police and traffic clearances.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal on Saipan and be responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom during proceedings and prisoner processing. The successful candidate will conduct inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibit the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited. The successful candidate will monitor court premises; assist in protection and transportation of jurors and other court personnel; have knowledge of and follow courtroom directives; process prisoner documentation; control unruly patrons, and perform other duties about the courthouses premises as assigned.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

Resumes and complete OPM applications should be addressed to the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, P.O. Box 5021645, Saipan, MP, 96950. Applications can be obtained at the OPM offices. Completed applications may also be submitted at the Rota Superior Court in Sinapalo, Rota. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 12:00 noon on October 8, 2010. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp

This project was supported by Grant Number 2009-DJ-BX-0624 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Corrections Program Office, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women Office. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CJPA Supervisory Council.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff, -v- JUAN EVANGELISTA Defendants. — **CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1046**

TWELFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court is this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 3I) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 1, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The Sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of August, 2010

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Executrix, Ines S. Ada

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCO C. ADA. **Deceased** — Civil Action No. 10-0182

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: October 12, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CEDITORS OF THE LATE FRANCISCO C. ADA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ines S. Ada, Executrix of the Estate of Franciscso C. Ada, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950

The hearing on the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in this matter has been set for 12th day of October, 2010 at 1:30 p.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 10th day of September 2010.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

Crawford, Longoria homer, Rays beat Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)— Carl Crawford and Evan Longoria hit consecutive home runs Wednesday to give the Tampa Bay Rays a 7-2 win over the New York Yankees after a long rain delay took some of the luster out of a key September game.

Dan Johnson hit his third homer against New York in a week as the Rays' bullpen outpitched the New York relievers to help Tampa Bay pull within 1 1/2 games of the Yankees in the American League East in a game that ended at 12:34 a.m. Tampa Bay improved to 9-8 in the season series— the first tiebreaker should the teams be equal after 162 games—with one game to go.

The finale of the four-game set for Thursday is highlighted by the anticipated rematch of Cy Young pitching award candidates CC Sabathia and David Price after they went zero for zero for eight innings on Sept. 13 in Florida.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays Sean Rodriguez, (1) left, greets centerfielder B.J. Upton, center, and Evan Longoria, right, after the Rays defeated the Yankees 7-2 in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010.

Rangers 2, Angels 1, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Francoeur doubled to lead off the 12th inning and eventually scored on Jeff Mathis' passed ball as Texas trimmed its magic number for clinching the AL West to four.

Mathis' mistake on an easily catchable pitch by Matt Palmer (1-2) ended an eight-inning scoreless drought for the Rangers, who extended their division lead over Oakland to eight games heading into a four-game series at the Coliseum.

Texas can clinch its first AL West title since 1999 with two wins over the Athletics. Its magic number dropped earlier Wednesday with Oakland's 4-3 loss to the White Sox.

Mike Napoli tied it with a seventh-inning homer for the Angels, who lost for just the fourth time in 13 games.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Jose Lopez hit three home runs and Michael Saunders added a two-run drive as Seattle beat Toronto.

Lopez hit a solo shot off Kyle Drabek (0-2) in the second inning, led off the sixth with a drive against reliever Brian Tallet and connected off reliever Shawn Camp in the eighth. It was his first multi-homer game of the season and fourth of his career.

Lopez, who has 10 home runs, hit all three homers to left field.

Vernon Wells had a solo shot, Toronto's major league-best 233rd.

David Pauley (3-8) got the win. Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 1 for 5, leaving him two hits from becoming the first player to record 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons. Suzuki leads the majors with 198 hits.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 1

At Boston, David Ortiz homered and drove in four runs, and John Lackey ended a career-worst four-game losing streak as Boston avoided a three-game sweep by beating Baltimore.

Josh Reddick also homered for Boston—his first of the season—as the Red Sox avoided being swept in Fenway Park by the Orioles for the first time since 1994.

Lackey (13-11) pitched seven innings and allowed one run and five hits.

Ortiz hit a three-run homer—his 31st—into the Red Sox bullpen off Kevin Millwood (3-16).

Twins 5, Indians 1

At Minneapolis, Minnesota rested most of its regulars and beat Cleveland behind the pitching of Nick Blackburn to complete a three-game sweep a day after becoming the first major league team to clinch a playoff berth this year.

Blackburn became the sixth Minnesota pitcher to reach double digits in victories, allowing one run and five hits in seven innings.

Jose Morales had three RBIs and Alexei Casilla had three hits for Minnesota, which has won nine of 11 and improved its record at new Target Field to 52-25. The Twins have sold out 74 straight home games and set a season home attendance record with 3,063,327, topping their 1988 mark.

Tigers 4, Royals 2

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera's leadoff single started a three-run fifth inning as Detroit held on to beat Kansas City.

Max Scherzer (12-10) gave up two hits and struck out eight over 7 2-3 innings. Ryan Perry got the final out of the eighth and Phil Coke pitched a shaky ninth.

Billy Butler hit a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth to pull the Royals within two.

Cabrera ended the night with a .326 batting average. He leads the majors with 120 RBIs and is among the leaders with 45 doubles and 35 homers.

White Sox 4, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Mark Teahen hit a go-ahead double with two outs in the ninth inning after pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay's tying RBI single as Chicago rallied past Oakland to end a season-worst eight game skid.

The White Sox got to Oakland's short-handed bullpen, scoring twice against Brad Ziegler (3-5). The right-hander hadn't given up a run in his previous 12 appearances.

White Sox slugger Manny Ramirez was a late scratch after telling manager Ozzie Guillen he didn't feel well.

Oakland's Chris Carter hit his first career home run.

Phillies 1, Braves 0

At Philadelphia, Roy Oswalt and two relief pitchers allowed just one hit as National League East-leading Philadelphia beat Atlanta for the Phillies' 10th straight win that increased their lead over the Braves to six games.

Raul Ibanez hit an RBI double with two outs in the eighth inning for the only run, helping the two-time NL champions reduce their magic number for clinching their fourth straight division title to four. It was the Phillies' first home sweep over the Braves since 2001.

Oswalt allowed the hit—a clean double by Martin Prado in the fourth—and walked one in seven innings.

Atlanta began the day with a one-game lead over San Diego in the wild-card race.

Padres 3, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Miguel Tejada hit his 300th career home run as San Diego reclaimed first place from San Francisco in the topsy-turvy NL West race.

The Giants lost to the Chicago Cubs 2-0, giving the Padres a half-game lead as they returned to the top of the standings for the first time since last Saturday. It was the third time the division lead changed hands since the Padres lost at St. Louis to fall out of first on Sept. 16.

Tim Stauffer (5-4) allowed one run and three hits in six innings, struck out five and walked two.

Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his career-high 43rd save in 46 chances.

Tejada's eighth homer of the season gave the Padres a 3-1 lead in the third.

Cubs 2, Giants 0

At Chicago, Randy Wells pitched 7 2-3 innings and Kosuke Fukudome homered to lead Chicago past San Francisco.

The Giants were shut out for the fourth time in their last five losses. It was the eighth time in 11 games they scored two runs or fewer.

The Cubs have won seven of their last eight games, the lone loss 1-0 on Tuesday to the Giants on Buster Posey's home run.

After Wells walked Travis Ishikawa and allowed a double to Cody Ross with two outs in the eighth, Cubs closer Carlos Marmol struck out Freddy Sanchez to end the inning. Marmol struck out the side in the ninth for his 34th save.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 4

At Phoenix, Adam LaRoche, Stephen Drew and Kelly Johnson homered to help deny Ubaldo Jimenez his 20th victory as Arizona sent Colorado to its third straight loss.

Jimenez (19-7) lasted just four innings, giving up five runs and six hits. He couldn't hold a 4-0 lead Colorado gave him in the first on Melvin Mora's three-run homer and Todd Helton's solo shot.

Rodrigo Lopez (7-14) retired 13 of the last 14 hitters he faced. Four relievers held the Rockies scoreless over the final four innings.

Sam Demel pitched 1 2-3 innings to get his second save in two tries.

Jimenez gave up two homers in a game for the first time this year and fell to 4-6 in 13 starts since beginning the season 15-1. The Rockies are 3-5 after winning 10 straight.

Brewers 13, Reds 1

At Milwaukee, Craig Counsell homered during Milwaukee's eight-run second inning and Corey Hart homered the next inning as the Brewers finished with 19 hits.

Cincinnati pitcher Aaron Harang hobbled off after being hit in the leg by a line drive and the NL Central-leading Reds had their magic number cut to three when Pittsburgh beat St. Louis 11-6.

Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto (12-6) had his shortest start of the season and Harang, normally a starter, was struck in the right ankle by Rickie Weeks' liner in the fourth inning. X-rays were negative and Harang had a bruise.

Pirates 11, Cardinals 6

At Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton pitched effectively over six innings to win for the first time in 4 1/2 months and Pedro Alvarez homered and drove in four runs as Pittsburgh extended St. Louis' late-season collapse.

John Bowker homered among three hits as the Pirates won their fifth straight, their longest streak since an identical run in August 2009, and assured the Cardinals of their eighth consecutive series loss to a losing-record opponent. St. Louis has dropped 25 of 37 since it led the NL Central on Aug. 13, including the first two of this three-game series.

Any combination of losses by St. Louis or wins by first-place Cincinnati totaling three will eliminate St. Louis from a division race it led much of the season. Cincinnati lost 13-1 at Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Nationals 4, Astros 3

At Washington, Danny Espinosa hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning and a triple, and Michael Morse added a solo shot as Washington edged Houston.

September call-up Espinosa's fifth homer barely cleared the out-of-town scoreboard in right field off the second pitch from reliever Jeff Fulchino (2-1). Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez walked Justin Maxwell leading off the inning.

Espinosa scored Washington's first run of the game after tripling in the third, coming home on Ian Desmond's infield single. Morse's 12th homer came on Rodriguez's first pitch of the fourth.

Marlins 7, Mets 5

At Miami, Wes Helms had two of his three RBIs in a five-run first inning and Dan Uggla drove in two runs as Florida downed New York.

Alex Sanabia (5-3) allowed three runs in five innings for the Marlins, who have won three straight.

Leo Nunez got the Marlins out of a jam in the eighth and Clay Hensley pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Uggla had an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth to make it 7-5.

Jonathon Niese (9-10) walked three, including Mike Stanton with the bases loaded, in the first inning. Helms followed Stanton's walk with a two-run double and Brad Davis' RBI groundout made it 5-0. Uggla started the scoring with an RBI single.

Agent: Deals were in place, but no Jackson trade

AP

This Dec. 20, 2009, file photo shows San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson trying to make a catch during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Holdout wide receiver Vincent Jackson remains the property of the San Diego Chargers despite his agent saying he had deals in place with several teams before the Wednesday deadline.

Agent Neil Schwartz said he heard from multiple general managers, whom he declined to identify, that the Chargers were asking for "wholly unreasonable" compensation for Jackson, a Pro Bowl player who had two straight 1,000-yard seasons. Schwartz said another GM told him that Chargers general manager A.J. Smith seemed to be "squatting" on Jackson.

"Archie Manning had it right about this organization," Schwartz said.

He was referring to when Manning had agent Tom Condon contact the Chargers days before the 2004 draft to ask that the team not take his son, Eli, with the first pick. Smith did anyway, then swapped Manning's rights to the New York Giants for the rights to Philip Rivers and several draft picks.

"Multiple teams have told me that they can't get a deal done with A.J. and some of the teams have referred to A.J. as 'The Lord of No Rings,' " Schwartz said. "That's how they characterized him."

North County Times columnist Jay Paris dubbed Smith "The Lord of No Rings" after Eli Manning and Ben Roethlisberger, the other members of the Big Three QBs of the 2004 draft class, led their teams to Super Bowl victories. Rivers and Smith have yet to make it to a Super Bowl.

Smith, who has a history of hardball dealings with players, didn't return a call seeking comment.

Schwartz said the legal language with one team was already drawn up and ready for Jackson to read and sign. That was a one-year deal with an option, with an average salary of more than $9 million. Schwartz declined to identify that team. It was widely reported that the Minnesota Vikings were a major suitor.

Under terms of a deal arranged by the NFL and the players' union, Jackson had to sign a new contract by 4 p.m. EDT Wednesday in order to play for a new team in Week 5. Now, he'll have to finish serving the remainder of his three-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy—he pleaded guilty in February to his second DUI since 2006—and serve a three-game suspension on the roster exempt list if he does sign.

Had a deal been done before the deadline, Jackson would have been placed on the Commissioner Exempt list for three games, retroactive to Game 2. That essentially would have rolled six games worth of suspensions into four games.

Those suspensions seem to be moot because Schwartz said it's unlikely Jackson will play this season under terms of the team's contract tender.

"Not now, not ever," Schwartz said. "Again, it's up to the Chargers. He's got nothing with Norv Turner. He loves the city of San Diego. He loves catching the ball from Philip Rivers."

Said Rivers: "I wish him all the best. I'd love to get the opportunity to throw to him again but if that's not the case, I want it to work out for him."

Turner declined comment.

"It's been the same since we started camp. We get the guys ready who are here," the coach said.

Jackson's original five-year contract expired after last season. But because this is an uncapped year, he would have needed six seasons to become an unrestricted free agent.

Unhappy over not receiving a long-term deal in the offseason, Jackson refused to sign the one-year, $3.268 million contract he was tendered as a restricted free agent. When he and holdout left tackle Marcus McNeill didn't sign their tenders by June 15, the Chargers were entitled to offer them 110 percent of their 2009 salaries, essentially cutting $2.5 million off the tenders. If either reports this year, it would be for the final six games in order to accrue a season toward unrestricted free agency.

Smith placed Jackson and McNeill on the roster exempt list on Aug. 20. He used the same tactic on tight end Antonio Gates in 2005. Gates missed the opener, a close loss to the Dallas Cowboys that helped contribute to the Chargers missing the playoffs that year.

A person with knowledge of the discussions said the Vikings and Chargers did have discussions about Jackson. The person requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations.

With Pro Bowl receiver Sidney Rice out for at least another month and reigning offensive rookie of the year Percy Harvin not practicing on Wednesday because of a migraine headache, the Vikings only have four healthy receivers on the roster, none of whom have been productive in 2010.

Bernard Berrian, Greg Camarillo and Greg Lewis have combined to catch seven passes for 89 yards in the first two games and the Vikings signed free agent Hank Baskett on Wednesday to add some depth.

Coach Brad Childress declined to discuss Jackson specifically when he spoke to reporters on Wednesday a little over an hour before the deadline passed.

But the coach was asked in general terms about the team's willingness to part with high draft picks to bring in a player for the final 12 games of a season who may not sign a long-term deal.

The Vikings have traded draft picks for marquee players before, including in 2008 when they sent a first-round draft choice and two third-rounders to Kanas City for defensive end Jared Allen. But the Vikings also signed Allen to a long-term contract before making the deal, ensuring that the high price they paid would keep him in Minnesota for the long run.

"They're your bartering tool," Childress said of draft picks. "That's how you build with younger talent. If you do something for a guy like a Jared Allen, you want to know what you're giving is commensurate with what you're getting."

NFL starts with heartache, troubles and q'back chaos

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL season just started and with it came heartache and trouble, on and off the field: a player's apparent suicide; drunken-driving charges against another; a drug suspension; Reggie Bush's broken leg; a female reporter's locker room plight; chaos at quarterback.

Stay tuned for Week 3.

From the death of Broncos wide receiver Kenny McKinley, found with a pillow over his head and a pistol on top of the pillow, to the DWI charges against Jets receiver Braylon Edwards to Tampa Bay safety Tanard Jackson being suspended for at least a year, the headlines have skewed toward the negative. Even the tragic.

"In a perfect world, all of our news would be positive and focused on the game," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday. "Of course we do not live in a perfect world and commissioner (Roger) Goodell makes sure we address all of these issues in an open and responsible way.

"We know that people are paying close attention to what we do and with that comes the responsibility of leadership and setting the right example."

Goodell's league has seen far too much irresponsible behavior dominating the news. Sure, the commissioner was impressed enough by Ben Roethlisberger's conduct since April that he reduced the Pittsburgh quarterback's suspension from six games to four. But more common have been suspensions for violations of the performance-enhancing-drug policy (Texans tackle Duane Brown, who joined Houston linebacker Brian Cushing, last season's defensive rookie of the year, on the sideline); personal conduct program (Bucs DB Aqib Talib); and substance abuse policy (Seahawks LB Leroy Hill).

Talib and Hill even attended their team's game in violation of league rules and could face further discipline.

On Wednesday, Jackson was suspended until next September after violating the drug policy for the second time; he served four games last year.

The league also is developing a workplace conduct program in the wake of a locker room incident in which the New York Jets acted unprofessionally toward a female television reporter from Mexico. Did the tabloids—and tabloid television—have a field day with that.

"It is getting harder to deflect attention," said Syracuse University professor of pop culture Robert Thompson. "Hollywood in the 1930s and '40s could completely make stories go away. The NFL has been known for being to able to control its message, but with stories like these ... it is very difficult to control those kinds of messages and even the information coming.

"A perfect example of that" is the Jets-TV Azteca reporter incident, he added.

The Jets don't have the only locker room issues. Their co-owner of the New Meadowlands Stadium, the Giants, had safety Antrel Rolle—in his first season with the team, by the way—complained about, well, just about everything, including a lack of player leadership. That followed running back Brandon Jacobs griping about losing his starting job earlier in the season, then unintentionally tossing his helmet into the Indianapolis crowd on Sunday night, for which Jacobs was fined $10,000 by the league.

Redskins cornerback DeAngelo Hall believes he also should be Washington's defensive coordinator; anybody wonder if he has designs on other jobs in DC, too, with the elections coming up in six weeks?

For all the tumult away from the field, there has been plenty of upheaval on it. Quarterback, the position coaches insist must be the most stable, is a mess in many cities, from Philadelphia to Charlotte to Oakland and back to Buffalo.

Already, eight teams have used backup quarterbacks in some manner, and the Bills are switching from Trent Edwards to Ryan Fitzpatrick on Sunday. Pittsburgh already has gone through its third-stringer and fourth-stringer and will start Charlie Batch at Tampa Bay. Leftwich was waived by the Steelers for Week 2, reclaimed on Monday.

But even if fans are paying attention to everything else, they also continue to tune into NFL telecasts, the most popular thing on the tube this time of year. Of course, anyone who prefers to focus on the negative will point out there already have been three TV blackouts (Tampa, San Diego, Oakland) when there were 20 all of last season.

There also have been 19 games decided by seven or fewer points, the most at this point in NFL history. Of the eight teams at 2-0, six did not make the playoffs last year: Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Miami, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay.

"Yes, I think people do pay attention to those other elements and maybe it's distracting us from watching the games in the total purity of sports," Thompson said.

Knicks believe new roster could be a winner

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—LeBron James never came. Carmelo Anthony might be interested in coming.

The New York Knicks aren't interested in discussing either.

After two years of working solely on ways to rebuild the team through free agency, even at the cost of winning games, team officials believe it's time to put the focus back on the court.

The roster is almost entirely changed, and they believe it could be a winning one.

"As a coaching staff, I know we're really excited about who we have and not even thinking about looking down the hallway, see what else is going on," coach Mike D'Antoni said Wednesday. "We're very content at the people we can put on the floor this year."

The Knicks will open training camp Friday at their practice facility with 10 newcomers, as they were one of the league's busiest teams over the summer after a 29-53 season.

They hoped to land James and one other superstar, but he decided on Miami instead. Still, they picked up perennial All-Star forward Amare Stoudemire, whom team president Donnie Walsh called "as good a player as we've had here in a long time."

The Knicks also believe former Charlotte Bobcats point guard Raymond Felton is the floor leader they need; are high on Anthony Randolph, the centerpiece of a trade with Golden State, and are intrigued by center Timofey Mozgov of Russia.

New York also expects the continued improvement of forward Danilo Gallinari, so Walsh said some players in this group will be around when the Knicks finally start winning again after a franchise-worst nine consecutive losing seasons.

"I do think that with the group of players we have here right now, you're going to go forward with a lot of these guys," Walsh said. "And it's not going to be anybody I can tell you right now, but there are guys here that are going to be guys that you're going say, 'Yeah, we want to keep this guy for a long time.'"

Or perhaps some will be offered in hopes of landing Anthony.

The All-Star still hasn't signed a contract extension with Denver and can become a free agent next summer. The New York native reportedly has the Knicks atop his wish list, though the Nuggets could opt to trade him before next summer to avoid losing him for nothing.

Walsh refused to say if he had or would contact the Nuggets, though the New York Times reported Monday that a Knicks official said New York was told during preliminary conversations that it didn't have the assets Denver was seeking if it did decide to trade its star.

The Knicks can't offer a first-round pick until at least 2014, since they sent their 2012 choice to Houston last season and NBA rules prevent teams from trading first-round picks in consecutive years. So Walsh can only offer what he has on his roster now if he's looking to deal.

"I don't really want to get into trades, talking about trades, because it's fruitless," he said. "There are trades you'd make and there are trades you wouldn't make, and that's about as good as I can do."

If some of the key signees meet expectations, the Knicks could be good enough to reach the postseason even without a move. Stoudemire flourished in D'Antoni's system in Phoenix, and Felton appears to be an upgrade at point guard, a necessity if the offense will ever look like it did with the Suns.

"I think any team, you can go wherever you go, the point guard's critical. Doesn't matter my system, your system, his system, doesn't matter," D'Antoni said. "You've got a really good point guard, you're going to be pretty good and the coach is going to look pretty good. If you don't, then you're going to struggle some nights and I think Raymond has an ability to win basketball games and that's what he's here for."

Walsh said the Knicks will start training camp without guard Kelenna Azubuike, who came with Randolph and Ronny Turiaf in the trade that sent All-Star David Lee to Golden State. Azubuike is still recovering from a torn patellar tendon in his left knee, which Walsh called one of the worst injuries a basketball player can face.

Eddy Curry also is expected to be on the court after sitting out most of the last two seasons because of injuries and other personal issues. He still hasn't arrived in New York and Walsh said he hasn't spoken with the center, keeping a vow not to bother Curry and trust he was working out.

Curry has never seemed a good fit for D'Antoni, anyway. The coach believes in the rest of the roster, saying this team has more athleticism than his first two in New York.

"There's going to be some athletic plays seen in the Garden that we haven't seen for a while," D'Antoni said. "Now whether that means we're good or not, we'll have to see. But I think we should be exciting."

NBA BRIEFS

NBA, union hold 3-hour bargaining meeting

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA and its players' association have completed another negotiating session and say they will continue meeting in smaller groups as they try to complete a new collective bargaining agreement. The league and union met for three hours Wednesday and issued a joint statement, calling the talks "cordial and constructive." It was the second meeting this summer and fifth since last August. The current CBA expires on June 30, 2011, and the sides remain far apart on talks toward another one that would head off a work stoppage. The sides added that "a number of issues were identified that will be addressed in smaller groups leading up to the next bargaining meeting." They did not say when that would be.

New NBA jerseys meant to absorb less sweat

NEW YORK (AP)—Dwight Howard proudly recalls making a 3-pointer during the last All-Star game. It must have been the shirt. The NBA is rolling out new uniforms, a lighter model tested during the All-Star game, and Howard says they'll improve his performance. "It's just like the shoes," the Orlando Magic center said. "The lighter the shoes, the faster you are, the higher you may jump." The new uniforms, called the NBA Revolution 30, were introduced Wednesday by the league and Adidas at the NBA Store. The company says the uniforms are 30 percent lighter and will dry twice as fast as previous uniforms. The old uniforms became so heavy once wet that some players changed uniforms at halftime. In the new model, Adidas changed the numbers from a dense material to a breathable mesh. "I actually thought when I first got them on that the jerseys had a cooling system on the inside to keep your body cool, something like an air conditioner in your jersey," said Howard, who has an endorsement contract with Adidas. "That's what it feels like." The Revolution 30, made from 60 percent recycled materials, was tested over four years and will debut this season.

Bobcats give Crittenton a chance

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Bobcats will bring Javaris Crittenton to training camp with a non-guaranteed contract, giving the ex-Washington Wizards point guard a chance to return to the NBA following his infamous gun altercation with Gilbert Arenas. Crittenton didn't play last season because of an ankle injury and then served a 38-game suspension after he and Arenas acknowledged bringing guns into the locker room following a dispute stemming from a card game on a team flight. The 22-year-old Crittenton pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor gun charge Jan. 25 and received probation. He wasn't re-signed by the Wizards.

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Ariza predicts a KO performance from Pacquiao against Margarito

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines— Manny Pacquiao's conditioning expert Alex Ariza predicts that the Nov. 13 showdown between the Filipino pound-for-pound king and Antonio Margarito will be a war.

Ariza told the *Inquirer* Sunday that the fight for the vacant WBC super welterweight title, scheduled at the Dallas Cowboys' $1.2-billion Stadium, "will be a most exciting fight because Margarito is a pure warrior."

"I'll do what I need to do to get Manny into the best shape possible so he can knock him (Margarito) out," said Ariza, who has been working alongside trainer Freddie Roach in turning Pacquiao into a fighting machine.

The conditioning guru noted that Margarito is the kind of fighter who "will take a ton of punches just to give one."

"If he punches with Manny, which is what Pacquiao likes, he'll knock him out," said Ariza.

Margarito earlier told Sol Rodriguez on Boxingscene.com that he is "going to prove that I don't need anything that is forbidden to win my battles or past fights."

The Mexican was referring to the illegal hand wraps that were discovered before his fight against Shane Mosley last year and led to his year-long suspension.

"Now I have the fight with Pacquiao in my hands and I am happy because I have the opportunity to show that I am a clean fighter. I will beat Pacquiao," added Margarito, who was finally given by the Texas commission a license to fight again Thursday.

Ariza said he would ask Pacquiao to set up training camp "a week earlier" in the Philippines when the fighter arrives in Los Angeles to kick off a three-city promotional tour.

Ariza prefers to set up the training camp in Baguio City, which Pacquiao himself likes, according to the congressman's chief of staff, lawyer Franklin "Jeng" Gacal.

Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz said that the Filipino champ is leaving for Los Angeles on Monday along with wife Jinkee and Gacal.

Koncz said Pacquiao would begin training on Sept. 20 although no decision has been made with regard to where he will train. ***(PDI)***

AP

Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao practices with a speed ball as he embarks on a training at the Elorde Gym Monday Sept. 20, 2010 at Manila's Quezon city in the Philippines for his WBC super welterweight title fight against Margarito Antonio at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Nov. 13.

SHARKS

From Page 36

GCA winning by eight, 25-17.

In the second set, it seemed like Calvary had a strong chance of extending the game when GCA coaches Becky and Mark Robles fielded the team's second and third stringers.

However, GCA's bench players showed their worth on the team, scoring five straight points to take control of the second set. The Eagles supporting crew continued to play well, increasing GCA's lead to as much as 10 points, 15-5, before Calvary threatened a comeback.

Calvary went on a 6-1 run to trim the lead four, 11-15. However, GCA answered with its own rally behind Noel Miguel and James Libut's impressive games near the net to widen the gap anew, 20-11.

The Eagles moved a point away from wrapping up the match after Calvary committed an error at the sideline, 24-14. Miguel then attempted twice to score the match point, but faltered. His first try was when he went for a kill from the middle, but the ball kissed the net, extending Calvary's life. He had another kill, but this time it was too strong with the ball going out of the backline, awarding CCA another point.

After two botched attempts to close the match, the Eagles finally took the straight set win a few minutes lates, thanks to Zelena Palijo, who served last with the ball heading out to the backline.

With the victory, the Eagles remained undefeated in eight games with two matches left in the double round-robin regular season.

ROLLERS

From Page 36

Saina in the last quarter, but their team came alive a little late in this match up and fell by seven points.

Rollers A's Jason Palacios drained a couple 3-pointers to help nail in the coffin on Saina at the end.

Aulerio top-scored for Rollers A with 16 points, while Palacios and Reyes chipped in 11 apiece. Ferrer and Saturno logged in 14 and 12 markers, respectively, in the loss.

The Rotary caging resumes tonight with Hi-5 taking on Rollers C starting at 6pm at the Ada Gym.

Rollers A 63 – Aulerio 16, Palacios 11, Reyes 11, Metron 8, Danas 7, Baza 4, Torres 4, Deleon Guerrero 2, Norita 2.

Saina 56 – Ferrer 14, Saturno 12, Castro 11, Norita 9, Weiliang 8, Xiang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 31-25, 48-30, 63-56.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Saina's Pedro Castro rejects short-range jumper from Rollers A guard Mark Norita during last Wednesday's Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U19 division matchup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMIFA

From Page 36

ball Club completing the list.

"NMIFA is elated to see the number of youths participating increase and welcome the addition of Shirley's Football Club. With the organization of Shirley's Football Club, more youths will have the opportunity to join a club and participate in our football matches. We thank PSS, CPA, and the Department of Sports and Recreation for allowing NMIFA and its member clubs to utilize their fields for our games on Saturdays," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said.

55 teams, 550 youth

This week's fall league will open with 55 teams or more than 500 players will be competing in the four-month long event in seven age groups.

This year's fall league has more teams than last spring's competition, according to Salas.

The U11 division, which is a co-ed age group, has the most participating teams with 17. Paire is fielding four teams in the U11, MP United, Matansa, and IFC have three each, and Tan Holdings and Shirley's have two apiece.

Eight games will be played in the opening day of the U11 competition with every match having two 20-minute halves and each team fielding seven players on the pitch.

The U6 is also a co-ed event and lures nine teams with MP United having three, IFC having two, and Matansa, Paire, Shirley's and Tan Holdings having one each.

Tan Holdings, Paire, Matansa, and MP United have two teams apiece, while IFC and Shirley's have one in the 10-team U8 co-ed competition.

In the boys U14, Paire has two teams, while the five other squads have only one each. The championship in the girls U14 will be disputed by four teams—Paire, Matansa, Tan Holdings, and MP United.

The boys U18 has three teams—MP United, Paire, and IFC—while the girls U18 crown will be a toss between IFC and Matansa. Games in the U18 division will be played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and if the Susupe facility is unavailable, matches will be transferred to the CPA field.

All age group competitions will conclude with a fall festival.

C-THEORY

From Page 36

imagined a player throwing his helmet 10 rows into the stands. But Brandon Jacobs did that last weekend.

That is something I had never seen in my whole life starting as a kid watching football games with my grandfather to the present time of grey hair and my own grandchildren, a span of 59 percent of a century. But the act fits quantum theory and a multiverse universe described by Hawking.

The spectacle raises ethical and legal questions, subjects Hawking avoids, such as: does the fan in the stand get to keep the helmet? In baseball when a batter accidentally flips his bat into the crowd, he will trade another bat to get it back. But in football, a player does not have another helmet to trade. In the end, a muscular official ripped it away from the fan which proves that the law of force works.

If someone accidentally drops his wallet on your foot, do you get to keep it? How about just the cash?

Did you see the Ohio University mascot pummel the Ohio State mascot? Turns out the kid's only purpose to be Rufus Bobcat was to maul Brutus Buckeye. Since Ohio was going to get about to get thumped by Ohio State like they always do, the attack was strangely symbolic and therefore great theater since no one was actually hurt.

The umpire may have been only a few feet from the play but he never saw or heard the ball hit the bat of Derek Jeter, even though replays were obvious. Jeter pretended to be in agony. The umpire awarded him first base. Was that ethical of the Yankee shortstop? Of course it was. In baseball it's alright to steal bases and signs, pretend to catch the ball, act like the tag was made when it wasn't and throw a spitball as long as one can get away with it.

A couple of days ago Jorge Posada pretended to get hit by a pitch and got rewarded for it.

Faking it is okay in baseball but not basketball. The flop is a sign of physical weakness, something we don't want to see. Pretending to be fouled is a farce.

Football has fake punts and field goals and pump fakes and fake handoffs but that's about it. Everything else is real. Like the age of the universe. Or the age of Favre.

God bless Brett Favre. It doesn't surprise me at all to see him struggle this season. Last year was magical or it was up until that horrible interception that ended his season. No one, I think, wants to see him fade away ineffective and irrelevant but that's what usually happens to athletes taken to task by Father Time. If it's not sad to see a dying star elsewhere in our universe, it should not be sad to see one in a stadium.

Another thing I saw that I wish I didn't see was a bat impaling Tyler Colvin, sticking him to the disabled list for the season. Those thin-handled maple bats are spears in waiting. More dangerous than quarks.

These things we saw on television this past week can be said to be like falling into a black hole. There's nothing we can do about it. We simply observe and describe, just like Hawking does. That's my theory. Believe it or not.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	92	60	.605	–
Tampa Bay	90	61	.596	1 1/2
Boston	84	68	.553	8
Toronto	76	75	.503	15 1/2
Baltimore	61	91	.401	31

Central Division

x-Minnesota	92	60	.605	–
Chicago	80	72	.526	12
Detroit	77	75	.507	15
Kansas City	62	89	.411	29 1/2
Cleveland	62	90	.408	30

West Division

Texas	84	67	.556	–
Oakland	76	75	.503	8
Los Angeles	75	77	.493	9 1/2
Seattle	58	93	.384	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	92	61	.601	–
Atlanta	86	67	.562	6
Florida	76	75	.503	15
New York	74	78	.487	17 1/2
Washington	64	88	.421	27 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	86	67	.562	–
St. Louis	77	74	.510	8
Houston	73	79	.480	12 1/2
Milwaukee	70	81	.464	15
Chicago	69	82	.457	16
Pittsburgh	53	98	.351	32

West Division

San Diego	85	66	.563	–
San Francisco	85	67	.559	1/2
Colorado	82	69	.543	3
Los Angeles	73	79	.480	12 1/2
Arizona	61	91	.401	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 0
Washington 4, Houston 3
Pittsburgh 11, St. Louis 6
Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 5
Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 0
Milwaukee 13, Cincinnati 1
Arizona 8, Colorado 4
San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3
Detroit 4, Kansas City 2
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 2
Seattle 6, Toronto 3
Boston 6, Baltimore 1
Texas 2, L.A. Angels 1, 12 innings

x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No more tomorrow for Armatech, Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armatech and Mobil will go for all the marbles on Sunday as they collide in the one-game only championship showdown in the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Game time is at 1pm, after the battle for third place between Marianas Wireless and MBI-Right Guard at 11am.

Armatech advanced to the finals after edging past MBI in overtime, 89-88, in last Sunday's semifinals. The Armatech-MBI semis fight was first played on Sept. 12, but was continued on Sept. 19 due to a technical error. Armatech was leading in the scoreboard, 80-79, at the end of regulation, but the victory was nullified as one free throw was mistakenly added to the team. The match was extended for five minutes with Elmer Esdrelon canning the winning-basket for Armatech.

Mobil booked the first finals berth after being awarded the win by forfeiture on Sept. 12. Mobil was ahead in its semis tiff, 74-61, with only two minutes gone by in the fourth quarter when Marianas Wireless walked out of the game in protest of successive technical fouls called against the team.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech players huddle during the closing seconds of their overtime game against MBI in the Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Armtech won, 89-88, and will face Mobil for the championship trophy this Sunday.

When tension subsided, Marianas Wireless representatives talked to league officials and told them the team would not play anymore, handing the victory to Mobil.

Mobil held an identical record with Armatech at 8-1 at the end of the regular season. However, Armatech won the tiebreak and the pennant, as it defeated Mobil in their lone encounter in the regular season, 92-88. The victory in the elimination round will give Armatech the slight psychological edge against Mobil when they face in the do-or-die game this Sunday.

In its bid to settle its score against Armatech and take the inaugural Emon Lodge championship trophy, Mobil will be pinning its hopes on CNMI Nationals player Jack Lizama, CNMI youth team stalwart Marvin Rabauliman and veteran Jun Estolas.

Armatech also has a member of the CNMI Nationals on its roster in the efficient Peter Mendiola, who scored 27 points in their overtime win over MBI. Teaming up with Mendiola is clutch hitter Esdrelon, who had 29 markers in their last game, and the clever Junar Guiab.

At the end of the championship game, Emon Lodge organizers will hold the award ceremony to recognize the top performers in the inaugural league.

Trophies to be awarded are for the best coach, champion team, the three runners-up, mythical five members, best in muse, most disciplined team, and most valuable player.

MISO starts baseball, volleyball leagues next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will kick off two more leagues next month with the staging of volleyball and baseball competitions for varsity teams.

The MISO baseball league will start first on Oct. 7 with three initial teams—Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School. Tinian High School is invited in the tournament and if it will field a team, it will automatically receive the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs.

The opening game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield will feature the Ayuyus colliding against the Dolphins. Only one match will be played every Tuesday and Thursday, starting at 4:30pm.

Each game will be played for seven innings, but in case of rained-out matches, a game will be official after five innings. The league will have a double round-robin format in the regular season.

The playoff round is scheduled for Nov. 5 and 6, as the league has to be completed in one month because the field will be used by Korea's LG Twins for their training session mid next month.

The varsity volleyball league will open on Oct. 19 with six teams—Southern, MHS 1 and 2, Kagman, Saipan International School, and possibly Tinian.

Tinian will not be joining the regular season games due to conflict of schedule and will be seeded automatically in the playoffs, getting the No. 3 seeding.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
A Little League slugger waits for the pitch during a game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, which will be the venue of this season's MISO baseball league.

Four games are scheduled in the opening day at the MHS Gymnasium. MHS 1 will take on Kagman at 4:30pm at the north court, while MHS 2 will duel Southern at the south court. The 5:30pm games will have SIS debuting against Southern at the north court and MHS 2 battling Kagman at the south court.

The league will have a double round-robin format in the regular season and double elimination in the playoffs. Each game will be played for three sets in a race-to-25 for the first two sets. The mandatory third set is a race-to-15 game only.

Flying Dartsmen still ahead in A Division

Buddies Bar & Grill's Flying Dartsmen can't seem to create much distance between itself and second-running Naked Fish Boyz in the A Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association.

Despite winning 13-4 against Locals at home last Monday, Flying Dartsmen is still only a few percentage points ahead of the team from Naked Fish at 70-49 in 119 games against the latter's 78-58 win-loss record in 136 total games.

Flying Dartsmen won three of the four regular cricket matches against Locals, both Partners 501 games and all four Singles Sniper matches.

It then sealed the automatic victory after winning the first Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket game. In the end, Flying Dartsmen added three Singles 301 matches and the final Team 1001 Cherry game. Flying Dartsmen's Patrick Taitano won all five of his matches and his teammate Albert Guevarra won all four.

Notables of the week include a 160 High-In and 122 High-Out, both by Jeff Barit of D'Pirates Bar & Grill's CK Destroyers.

In other matches in the A Division last Monday, Naked Fish Boyz took out Vargas Snipers, 13-4; CK-Destroyers nipped Primos, 9-8; and Bud Brothers beat Right There!, 10-7.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Buddies' Flying Dartsmen players pose during their game at Buddies Bar & Grill. Front row from left, Patrick Taitano, Ben Aguon, and Wilson Quiban. At the back from left, Julian Camacho and Jay Sablan.

Yakau hangs on to Ladies League lead

Johnny's Yakau is in the same boat as Flying Dartsmen as the Ladies League leader is barely hanging on to the lead against the aggressive push by D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Strikers.

This, even though Yakau beat Lady Gagas, 10-5, Monday night on the road. The latter won three of the four Singles 301 matches and swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket games.

Yakau seized an automatic victory after winning a Partners 501 contest and a pair of regular cricket matches. The team then went on to add a Partners Baseball game and the final Team 1001 match. Yakau's Sally Aguon won all four of her matches.

The win improved Yakau to an 81-39 win-loss mark, which is just a game ahead of Strikers. Notables last Monday include a 160 High-In by Polly Omechelang of USS Peleliu Club's Kmal Sechelim and a 124 High-Out by the Strikers' Rufina Guevarra.

Other Ladies League matches last Monday saw Strikers upend Pink Panthers, 10-5; Mama's Snipers defeat Tipiyeew, 8-7; and Kmal Sechelim dominate Megatouch, 13-2. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Kristo Rai to host golf tourney tomorrow

Kristo Rai Parish is holding a fundraiser golf tournament tomorrow, Sept. 25, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

There is a $100 entrance fee that can either be paid for right now from any church council member or on-site the morning of the event.

Tee off is set for 7:30am with the registration period scheduled for 6:30am. Tournament organizers are hoping to surpass their expectancy of 70-80 players.

The tourney will have six flights—Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies.

In addition to trophies, the Top 3 finishers in each flight will receive cash prizes of $100 for first place, $75 for second place, and $50 for third.

In addition, a Harley Davidson motorcycle, sponsored by the Financial and Insurance Services Group (formerly Pacific Financial), is up for grabs to anyone who manages a hole-in-one on the par-three hole No. 13. A mini raffle drawing will also take place during the awards presentation held at the conclusion of the tournament.

The purpose of the tournament is to raise additional funds needed to complete repairs in the main church building, the CCD office, and renovation of the Kristo Rai Parish social hall.

This is the fourth golf tournament organized by Kristo Rai in the past five years. Last year, due to too many fundraising events in an election year, the tournament did not take place. Jess Wabol won the tournament by three strokes in 2008 with a net score of 69.

For more information, contact tournament coordinator Margaret Dela Cruz at 287-4627. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sharks, Eagles split games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Calvary Christian Academy and Grace Christian Academy split the two matches played in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

Calvary won in the junior varsity division to improve to a 6-5 record, while GCA prevailed in the varsity game to keep its undefeated mark.

The Sharks got off to a slow start in the junior varsity match, allowing the Eagles to steal the opening set, 25-21.

The second set was another nip-and-tuck game and this time Calvary showed poise in the homestretch to pull off a 25-20 victory and force a deciding third set.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Christian Academy's Dae Min Jeon leaps high for a kill against Calvary Christian Academy during their game in the varsity division of the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill. GCA won, 25-17, 25-16.

Having the momentum following their second set win, the Sharks went for the kill in the third set, drilling a 15-11 win to upset the Eagles in their home turf. GCA absorbed its eighth loss in 11 games.

The Eagles' varsity team foiled Calvary's bid for a sweep when the former topped the latter in straight sets.

Calvary engaged GCA in a close fight in the first half of the opening set, as the Eagles' starters were still looking for their rhythm. The Sharks remained afloat for the last time at the 13-11 tally, in favor of the Eagles, before GCA asserted its might behind veterans Brandon Chargualaf and Dae Min Jeon.

Chargualaf scored three straight aces at one point in the first set, while Jeon had two kills in the closing phase of the opening set, which ended with

See SHARKS on Page 34

New team graces NMIFA youth fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be welcoming a new team when it kicks off the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League tomorrow at the various school fields on Saipan.

Joining NMIFA's growing family is Shirley's Coffee Shop, which will be fielding five teams in the fall league. Shirley's has one team each in the U6, U8, and U14 age groups and two in the U11. The Oleai Elementary School Field will be the home pitch of the newest member club of NMIFA.

With the addition of Shirley's Coffee Shop, NMIFA now has six clubs with Matansa Football Club, Independents Football Club, Paire Football Club, MP United Football Club, and Tan Holdings Foot-

See NMIFA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa and MP United players in action during the NMIFA spring football festival at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Rollers A tops Saina, 63-56

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rollers A used a big third quarter push to soundly defeat Saina, 63-56, in the U19 division of the Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rollers swingman Brandon Aulerio started well with nine points in the opening period to help give his team a one-basket edge, 16-14.

Saina guard Mark Norita scored seven in the second quarter, but Dominic Reyes hit two of the Rollers A's three long balls from behind the arch in the period to help stretch their lead to six, 31-25.

After the break, the Rollers A's defense shut down Saina, containing them to only five points in the whole third period. Patrick Torres led the Rollers with six markers as they extended their lead to 18 points, 48-30.

Michael Saturno, Pedro Castro, and Reinhold Ferrer each tallied six points for

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

C-theory

Just finished reading Stephen Hawking's "The Grand Design." I read the criticism before I read the book and can only wonder if critics read the book too. Arguing cosmology with Hawking is like arguing baseball with Joe Torre. Sure, you can do it, but c'mon man, what's the point? He knows more about the subject than you do.

Like there is no single map that exactly portrays the Earth, Hawking presents the case that the best way ever developed to describe the universe is M-theory which includes spontaneous creation without any need for God to push the start button. Why not just call M-theory, actually a set of separate theories where the "M" doesn't even stand for any specific word, G-theory or God Theory?

I don't know.

I used to know everything but I now I don't know anything.

I call it the C-theory. As in you must see it to believe it. And then after you do see it, don't believe it.

The world is not what one might imagine. For example, I never

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